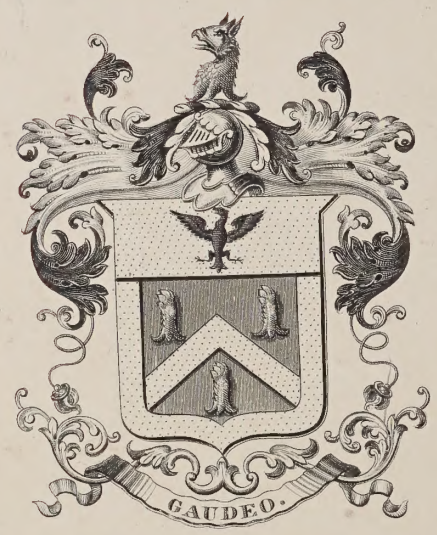


John Carter Brown.
John Nicholas Brown.

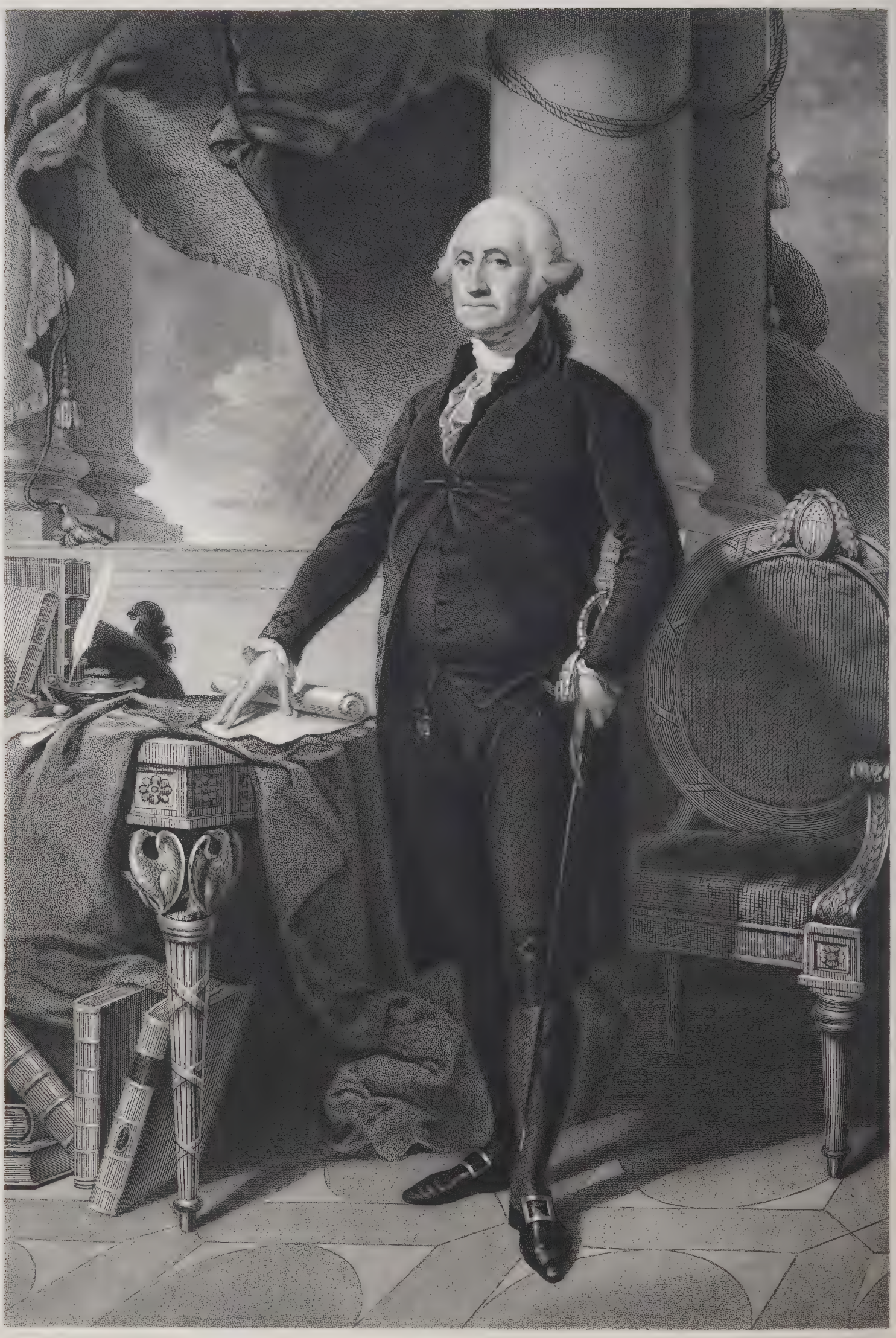
BOUND BY F. BEDFORD

2051

THE

WASHINGTON-REED

AUTOGRAPHS.



ORIGINAL

Autograph Letters,

FROM

GENERAL WASHINGTON

TO

JOSEPH REED,

DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;

MANY OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED.

"HOW PRECIOUS ARE THESE LETTERS, AND HOW FORTUNATE THAT THE ABSENCE OF MR. REED FROM CAMP SHOULD HAVE PROCURED FOR US SUCH CONFIDENTIAL OUTPOURINGS OF WASHINGTON'S HEART AT THIS TIME OF HIS GREAT TRIAL."

Irving's Washington, II, 178.

RPJCB

ABSTRACT

OF

PRELIMINARY

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, ETC.

1. ORIGINAL HEADS OF WASHINGTON'S FIRST GENERAL ORDER ON TAKING COMMAND AT CAMBRIDGE.

2 pp. octavo.

Cambridge: 1775.

[*In the Hand-writing of Washington.*]

The Enemy on Bunker Hill. American Lines within Gunshot. Want of Tents. Grateful to Congress for its readiness to make everything agreeable. Want of Money, Clothing, and Powder. Spencer declines to serve in consequence of Putnam's appointment over him. Spencer gone home without leave.

2. QUESTIONS FOR COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS, IN WASHINGTON'S AND ANSWERS IN REED'S HAND-WRITING.

4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: 1775.

[*In the Hand-writing of Washington.*]

Shall the British Troops in Boston be Destroyed at the risk of Destroying the Town? Indian Chiefs of the St. Francis, Penobscot, Stockbridge and St. John's Tribes have offered their Services. How shall Tory Property be treated? What shall be done with Dr. Church? Ought not Negroes, especially such as are Slaves, to be excluded from the Service? How are Prisoners to be treated?

3. Original Draft of Washington's Letter to his General Officers. . . . . 3 pp. folio.

Cambridge: September 8th, 1775.

[*Written and Signed by Washington.*]

Plan of a Boat Attack on Boston discussed at length. Their Views solicited. The Success of the Measure must depend upon the Suddenness of the Stroke. Soldiers already impatient to get home. Desires a Speedy Finish of the Dispute.

4. Jared Sparks to William B. Reed. . 2 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: February 21st, 1838.

"All Washington's papers which were in my possession, are now deposited in the Department of State at Washington. The letters from Washington to your grandfather, in 1775 and 1776, copies of which you were so kind as to send to me, I recollect seemed to me the most imperfect (*in style and construction*) that I had ever seen from his pen. They were evidently written in great haste, in perfect confidence and without any thought that they would ever be published."

A

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

OF

The Letters of Washington to Reed.

The Letters not specially noted are all in Washington's Hand-writing.

I.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: October 30th, 1775.

Views on Courts Martial. The Mails. Choice of a Private Secretary.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

II.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED TWICE. . 3 pp. folio.

Cambridge: November 8th, 1775.

Arnold's Journal. Thinks Arnold is in Quebec. Philadelphians supplying the Enemy. Plan for an Attack on the Enemy's Naval Forces. New Arrangement of officers. Difficulties among the New England States. Connecticut wants no Massachusetts men in its Corps. "A blunderiug Lieutenant of the blundering Captain Coit, who has just blundered upon two vessels, etc."

III.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: November 20th, 1775.

Anxiety for his Return. Baylor not in the smallest degree a penman. Harrison sensible, clever and confidential but not sufficiently comprehensive. Moylan very obliging but cannot retain him. Cramped state of the Treasury. The Best of Kings. Necessity of Medical Assistance in the Army. Connecticut officers. Dr. Church in a Connecticut Jail without the use of pen, ink, or paper and to be conversed with only in English and in the presence of a Magistrate. Our Rascally Privateersmen. Arnold at Chaudiere Pond. *The Noble* Col. Enos. Mrs. Washington's Journey to Camp. Knox dispatched to Ticonderoga for Cannon.

IV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 3 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: November 27th, 1775.

Takes Possession of Cobble Hill without a Shot from the Enemy. Details of the Progress of the Seige of Boston. Sufferings of its Inhabitants.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

V.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 7 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: November 28th, 1775.

The Private Secretaryship. Continental Bills. Want of Public Virtue and Patriotism. "I tremble at the prospect." "Could I have foreseen what I have and am like to experience, no consideration upon earth should have induced me to accept this command." The Seige of Boston continued. Difficulties with the Provincial Troops. Knox and the Artillery. Capitulation of Montreal. "Poor Arnold, I wonder where he is." Enos under Arrest. Obliged to *give in* to the whimsies of the People or get no Army.

VI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: November 30th, 1775.

Capture of the Nancy Store Ship. Scoundrelly Spy from Marblehead. The Affair at Lichmore's Point. Movements of the Enemy.

VII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED TWICE. . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: December 15th, 1775.

Mrs. Washington at Philadelphia. The Congress. Difficulties with Massachusetts. Mr. Reed's Return. Flattering Sentiments of the People respecting his Conduct. "Pray God I may continue to deserve them." Denunciation of Lord Dunmore, "that arch traitor to the rights of humanity." That Villain Connolly. Impatient to hear from Arnold. "Would to God we may hear he is in Quebec." The small Pox in every part of Boston.

VIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: December 25th, 1775.

The Works at Lichmore's Point. The New England Governments. The Connecticut Troops. The Inconceivable Want of Powder and no Supply "administers a gloomy prospect." Mrs. Washington's visit to Philadelphia. Gratitude for the civilities shown her.

IX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: January 4th, 1776.

Things wear a better face in Virginia. Lord Dunmore's "resentments and villainies." The King's Speech. Lord North. New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Troops desirous of 'retiring into a Chimney Corner." Ludicrous mistake of the "Red

Coats." Shuldham is arrived at Boston. His own Despondency. "I wish this month was over our heads . . . . how it will end God in his great goodness will direct." Movements of the British Fleet.

X.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED THUS — . 8 pp. folio.

Cambridge: January 14th, 1776.

Difficulties with the Massachusetts Government. Gloomy Prospects. Failure of Inlistments. Scarcity of Arms. Not 100 Guns in the Stores. Regrets that he had not Shouldered a Musket and Entered the Ranks instead of accepting the Command. General Despondency. "Could I have foreseen the difficulties which have come upon us, ... all the Generals upon earth should not have convinced me of the propriety of delaying an attack upon Boston till this time." Lee dispatched to Secure New York. Duke of Grafton.

XI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: January 23rd, 1776.

Continued Anxiety for Mr. Reed's Return. His Distress and Embarrassments increased. The Unfortunate Repulse at Quebec. Death of the Brave and Lamented "Montgomerie." Arnold at Quebec. Gen. Schuyler. Enthusiasm of Governor Trumbull. The British pulling down the Houses at Boston.

XII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge, January 31st, 1776.

Renewed Anxiety for Mr. Reed's Services. Clinton leaving Boston. Tryon and the New York Tories. "My Countrymen of Virginia." Affairs in Canada. Capture of two Supply Vessels. Campbell's "very formidable" Portrait of the Commander in Chief with a "sufficient portion of terror in his countenance." Mrs. Washington.

XIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Cambridge: February 1st, 1776.

Behavior of the Men under Gen. Montgomerie. Want of Discipline in Raw Troops. They will not march boldly up to a Work. The Men must be brought to Face Danger. Gen. Arnold Wounded. Gen. Prescott.

XIV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED G. W. . 7 pp. folio

Cambridge: February 10th, 1776.

Expressions of Personal Regard. Difficulties of his Position. His Situation Irksome. Has less than Ten Thousand Men Insufficiently Armed and Clothed. Sailing of the British Fleet. The King's Speech. Never entertained an idea of an Accommodation with the Ministry. "A Tyrant and his Diabolical Ministry." Chimney Corner Heroes. Admiralty Courts. Bunker Hill. Narrow Escape of Commodore Manley. Receives a Letter and Poem from Miss Phillis Wheatley. Inclined to publish the Poem Refrains from Motives of Delicacy. Miss Wheatley's "Great Poetical Genius."

XV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED G. W——N. 16 pp. quarto

Journal of the Seige of Boston.

Cambridge: February 26th, 1776; Continued on the 3rd, 7th, and 9th, of March.

Completion of Works on Lichmore's Point. Mounting Heavy Ordinance thereon. Every thing, "*but the thing*" ready for Operation. Proposes to Cross on the Ice to Assault Boston. Overruled. Preparing to Take Post on Dorchester Heights, "to try if the enemy will be so kind as to come out to us." Want of Powder. Lee's Expedition to New York. Governor Trumbull. The Long

Island Tories. The Command of the North River. Sir Henry Clinton's friend Mr. Tryon. Personal Camp Equipage. The Expected Rumpus in Boston. Occupation of Dorchester Heights. Bombardment of Boston. "Dreadful apprehension" of the Selectmen for the Town. Want of Powder again. Questions of Rank. Merits and Claims of several Officers discussed. Ill News from the Fleet. The English Commissioners. Gen. Howe proposes to Evacuate Boston. The Selectmen again. They are under "dreadful apprehensions" and in "great consternation for the Town."

XVI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. folio.

Cambridge: March 19th, 1776.

The British Evacuate Boston. The "Inconceivable Hurry" of their Embarkation described. Capture of Artillery. Thirty Thousand Pounds worth of His Majesty's Property Abandoned. Boston found to be almost Impregnable. Troops sent to New York. Impatience for Mr. Reed's Return.

XVII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: March 25th, 1776.

The Enemy's knack at puzzling. The British Fleet fitting for sea in Nantasket Roads. Speculation as to its Destination and Plans. Six Regiments detached to New York. Apprehends Danger from Expiration of Term of Service of Troops. Has "people to deal with who will not fear danger until the bayonet is at their breast." Fortifies Boston.

XVIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 1 p. folio.

Cambridge: March 28th, 1776.

Gen. Howe makes an Inglorious Retreat. The British Fleet leaves Nantasket Roads. Six more Regiments dispatched to New York. Two others to follow. His own immediate departure thence.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XIX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED TWICE. . 6 pp. folio.

Cambridge: April 1st, 1776.

Dispatch of the Army to New York. Resignation of General Officers. "That wonderful man General Fry." Ludicrous account of his "wonderful" Services. Unfavorable account of the Carolinas. "*Those universal instruments of Tyrany, the Scotch.*" "The first blow half the battle." Mr. Temple arrives with News from England. More about the British Commissioners. Independence must soon come. Tom Paine's "Common Sense" is working a powerful change in Virginia. "*Old Put.*" Miseries and Hardships of the Boston Tories. When the Order issued for the Embarkation of the British Troops "no electric shock, no sudden flash of lightning, not even the last trump could have struck them with greater consternation." Sullivan's and Greene's Brigades ordered to Providence.

XX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. quarto.

Cambridge: April 15th, 1776.

Deplores Party Divisions in Pennsylvania. Still Desirous for Mr. Reed's Return. Fears he may "have a difficult card to play" and wishes for Reed's Assistance and Advice.

[It is of the foregoing letters that Washington Irving says, "How precious are these letters, and how fortunate that the absence of Mr. Reed from camp should have procured for us such confidential outpourings of Washington's heart at this time of his great trial."] — *Irving's Washington*, II., 178.

XXI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. folio.

New York: April 23rd, 1776.

Arrival at New York.. Alarming Dissentions in Congress. "If the house is divided the fabric must fall."

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXII.

WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH REED, ESQ., OR IN HIS ABSENCE TO JOHN CADWALLADER, ESQ., ONLY AT BRISTOL. 2 pp. folio.

Camp Above Trenton Falls: December 23rd, 1776.

Details at Length his Plans for the Attack on Trenton, and the Movements below. "Christmas day at night, one hour before day, is the time fixed upon." "For Heaven's sake keep this to yourself as the discovery of it might prove fatal to us." "Necessity, dire necessity will, nay must, justify an attack." Gen. Gates. Gen. Sullivan. "Heaven grant we are successful."

[This letter is of great interest and value. It was recovered, comparatively within a few years, from a gentleman to whom it had been lent.]

XXIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. quarto.

[*In the writing of a Secretary. Signed by Washington.*]

Morristown: January 12th, 1777.

Sullivan and Maxwell. Capture of Van Horne. His noted Character. No dependence to be placed upon his Parole. Putnam at Princeton. Movements of Heath.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXIV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 3 pp. folio.

Morristown: January 14th, 1777.

Putnam at Fault. Movements in New Jersey. Cornwallis sends a British Surgeon to attend the Wounded. The Peculiar Kind of Attention he is to receive. Anxiety for Intelligence. The Rangers—did they Run Away?—if so, Punish or Shame them.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. folio.

Morristown: January 15th, 1777.

Complains of Putnam. "What in the name of Heaven can he be doing." Defects of the Militia. Anxious for Intelligence. Sends his Congratulations to General Mercer of whose Death he was then ignorant.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXVI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Morristown: February 23rd, 1777.

Reed's Resignation as Adjutant General. General Conway's Cartel The Quarter-Master-Generalship. Command of the Horse offered to Reed. Generals Greene and Mifflin. Plan for the Prevention of Desertion. New-fangled Schemes of Congress. It ought not to Return to Philadelphia. "We are now in one of the most critical periods America ever saw." Wishes Col. Cox to accept the Appointment of Commissary of Prisoners. "If he will, I wish to God he would repair hither immediately."

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXVII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 1 p. folio.

Middle Brook: May 29th, 1777.

[*In Writing of a Secretary. Signed by Washington.*]

Offers Reed the Command of the Light Horse, with the Rank of General.

XXVIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. folio.

Camp at Middle Brook: June 11th, 1777.

Refers to Reed's Letter to Gen. Charles Lee. Feels himself Hurt thereby. Intimates in Eloquent and Feeling terms that "it mortified him not a little." Overlooks it. Desirous that Reed should accept the command of the Light Horse.

XXIX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 1 p. folio.

Whitemarsh: December 2nd, 1777.

Exceedingly Embarrassed respecting the Location of Winter Quarters. Wishes to see Mr. Reed at Camp that he may have his Sentiments and Assistance.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 1 p. folio.

Valley Forge: June 15th, 1778.

More about the British Commissioners. Reed's Letter to Gov. Johnson. An Alteration Suggested. Congress Deliberating upon an Answer to the Address of the Commissioners.

XXXI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. quarto.

Fredericksburgh: in the State of New York: November 27th, 1778.

Winter Quarters. Baylor's Dragoons. Discredited Paper Money. Infamous Practice of Forestalling. Laments. Faction and Party Views. Expression of Devout Submission to Providence. Mysterious Conduct of the Enemy at New York and Rhode Island.

XXXII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 6 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: December 12th, 1778.

Congratulates Reed on his Election as President of Pennsylvania. Sir Harry's Extra Manœuvre up the North River. Consequent Marches and Countermarches. The Convention Troops safe in the hands of Gen. McDougall. The "Extra Manœuvre" results in the Destruction of two or three log houses and nine barrels of spoiled herrings. Pennsylvania Politics. Monopolizers and Forestallers the Pests of society. "Would to God that one of the most atrocious in each State was hung in gibbets upon a gallows five times as high

as the one prepared for Haman." Denounces the man "who can build his greatness upon his country's ruin." Gen. Chas. Lee's Publication and Conduct. Facts barefacedly Misrepresented. Despises the Publication from his "inmost soul" and Defies Lee to Produce a Single Proof of his Assertions. Lee's Character, Temper and Plans. The Venom of his Tongue and Pen. Invited to make Philadelphia his Head Quarters for the Winter. Declines in consequence of the Care and Address required "to keep the army from crumbling." Will Reconcile himself to any Place and all Circumstances while he Remains in the Army. Gratitude of the Army to Reed.

XXXIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED AS PRESIDENT OF PENNSYLVANIA. . . . . 5 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: March 31, 1779.

[*In the writing of a Secretary.*]

Secret Plan of an Indian Campaign.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXXIV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 3 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: March 28th, 1779.

Plans of the Enemy. Fears an Attack on New London. Suspects some Vigorous Attack to Plunder or Destroy Annapolis, Baltimore, or perhaps Philadelphia. Clinton and Erksine on Long Island. Admiral Gambier gone to Rhode Island. "The fears of the people are up for New London." Necessity of Vigilance. Defensive Measures suggested.

XXXV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. quarto.

Middlebrook: March 29th, 1779.

Plans for Assembling the Militia. The numerous Tribe of Speculators and Stock-jobbers.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXXVI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. SIGNED TWICE. . 4 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: April 8th, 1779.

The Indian Campaign. Distrusts the so-called Col. Patterson. Movements on Northern New Jersey. Recruits. Land Bounties. Party Spirit in Pennsylvania. Negociations for Peace. Col. Patterson's case explained.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXXVII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: April 19th, 1799.

[*In Writing of Col. Tilghman. Signed by Washington.*]

Aid required from Pennsylvania. The Wyoming Expedition. Desires that Gen. Potter should Command it. Takes Measures to Prevent Mischief from Col. Patterson. The Army Distressed for Bread. Fort Pitt. Fort Laurens.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XXXVIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 2 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: May 8th, 1799.

Mr. Reed's Personal Explanation. Impartial Attention to the Security of each of the States avowed. Arnold's Trial. Arnold anxious to have it brought on. The date of it fixed. Will *order* the Attendance of Military Witnesses.

XXXIX.

WASHINGTON TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA. 2 pp. folio.

Middlebrook: May 20th, 1779.

[*In Writing of Alexander Hamilton. Signed by Washington.*]

Attention to the Interests of the several States again Declared. Sensibly Affected by the Slightest Appearance of Distrust. Exer-

tions of the State of Pennsylvania Acknowledged. Inlistments. Arnold's Trial. Will "endeavour to have it conducted with unexceptionable propriety."

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XL.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 7 pp. folio.

West Point: July 29th, 1779.

Secret Slanderers. Lee's "Queries Political And Military." The "*dark and hidden* motives, gross misrepresentations and *self known* falsehoods, of its malevolent author." Eloquent and Touching Self-Justification. The Command of the Army Forced upon him. Anxious to Return to the "Peaceful retirement, domestic ease and happiness" from whence he came. Has been for more than four years a "perfect slave." His Motives as Pure as ever man was Influenced by. Favourable Negociation with Spain. Discouraging Prospects of the Campaign. Movements of the Enemy. Arrival of Lord Cornwallis.

XLI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 7 pp. folio.

West Point: August 22nd, 1779.

The Loss of Fort Washington in 1776. Exposition of the Causes of the Disaster. Gen. Greene's Non-Compliance with Orders. Emphatic Resolve of Congress to Obstruct the Navigation of the North River. "A fine theme for the pen of a malignant writer." Valley Forge. Inlistments. The Currency. "The Spunge." The Affair at Powles Hook. 160 Prisoners and the Colours of the Garrison brought off.

XLII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 6 pp. folio.

West Point: October 22nd, 1779.

Reed to Lead the Pennsylvania Militia. His Example, Abilities, Activity and Bravery. Confidence in his Friendship and Zeal.

Discontents and Jealousies in the Army. Questions of Rank. Delicate Situation of the Officers. Patriotism and Love of Honor their only Motives for Remaining in the Service. Amazing Depreciation of Money.

XLIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 8 pp. folio.

Morristown: May 28th, 1780.

Surrounded by Difficulties. "Unable to administer the most ordinary calls of the Service." "We have almost ceased to hope." "This is a decisive moment, one of the most, I will go further, and say *the most*, America has seen." Relations with Foreign Powers. Glorious Effort of France for the Deliverance of America. Superiority of Great Britain to France and Spain combined. The French Fleet. Modern Wars Determined by the Longest Purse. Earnest Appeal to Pennsylvania. Can Undertake Nothing without her Aid. She "is our chief dependence." Wish for Plenipotentiary Powers in the Executive.

XLIV.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: Bergen County, July 4th, 1780.

President Reed Vested with the Power to Proclaim Martial Law in Pennsylvania. Europe and America look to him to do his Part. His Situation Extremely Delicate and Critical. Advised to Exercise the Power with Boldness and Vigor. Extensive Power Insufficiently Exercised sure to Ruin the Possessor. The Bank. "Pennsylvania must do its part fully" or "we shall fail of success." Expression of Earnest Friendship.

XLV.

WASHINGTON TO MRS. REED. . . . 2 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: July 20th, 1780.

The Female Patriots. Contributions for the Relief of Soldiers. Suggestions respecting their Disposition.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XLVI.

WASHINGTON TO MRS. REED. . . . 2 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: Orangetown, August 10th, 1780.

The same subject. The Soldiers paid in Depreciated Paper. Fears that "a taste of hard money" may produce Discontent and promote Desertion. A Supply of Shirts Recommended instead. Continued Sufferings of the Troops.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XLVII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: Orangetown, August 20th, 1780.

[*In Writing of Col. Tilghman. Signed by Washington.*]

Movements of the Pennsylvania Militia. Can scarcely feed the Army from day to day. Assurances of Reinforcements from the French Land and Sea Commanders. Stirring Appeal to Reed to make the most of the Present Opportunity.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

XLVIII.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 4 pp. folio.

Head Quarters: Passaic Falls, October 18th, 1780.

Arnold's Treason. His Conduct "is so villanously perfidious that there are no terms that can describe the baseness of his heart." His "horrid intention to surrender the Post and Garrison of West Point." Expresses a doubt whether Arnold really intended to involve his fate with that of the Garrison. Folly of Arnold's Subsequent Conduct. The Reasons why he was placed in Command of West Point. Regard for and Confidence in Gen. Schuyler. Exchange of Prisoners.

XLIX.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 3 pp. quarto.

Head Quarters: November 20th, 1780.

Arnold's Slanders on Reed. Disclaims having treated Arnold with "the greatest politeness." Arnold's assertion thereof "An

absolute falsehood." "He *self*-invited some civilities I never meant to show him." Falsity of his Statements Repeated and Declared.

L.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 1 p. folio

Mount Vernon: November 15th, 1781.

[*In the Writing of a Secretary. Signed by Washington.*]

Answer to Congratulations on the Surrender of Cornwallis.

[*Not in Reed's Reprint.*]

LI.

WASHINGTON TO REED. . . . . 3 pp. quarto.

Verplank's Point: September 15th, 1782.

Answer as to Gen. Cadwallader's Pamphlet. Reed's Appeal Unexpected and Surprising. Not Suspected of Infidelity or Want of Integrity in 1776. Appeared Solicitous for the Public Good while in Delaware. His Conduct at Princeton appeared Zealous and Laudable. Disagreeable to have Hastily Written Private Letters made Matter of Public Discussion.

FINIS.

The time of my arrival –

The situation of the Troops – Works – & Men's in good – Enemy on Bunkers Hill

The almost impossibility of giving up the present encampment in the face of the Enemy, & after much work has been bestowed notwithstanding our situation from the divided nature of it, & length of our lines &c. is by no means desirable.

The exceeding difficulty of getting Returns of the Forces &c. is my Reason why I could not write sooner – to this may be added the necessity of bestowing a good deal of time & attention to the defence of our lines w.ch are within gun shot of the Enemy.

Want of Tents a great disadvantage as the men are much dispers'd in Quarters, & unavoidably so, which is an essential reason for continuing in the Quarters at Cambridge & Roxbury. –

Express gratitude for the readiness w.ch the Congress & Cont.l Committee have shewn to make every thing as convenient & agreeable as possible, but point out the inconvenience of depending on a number of Men & different chans through which these supplies are to be furnished and the necessity of appointing a Commy. Genl. for these purposes – recom.d Mr. Trumbell for this office. –

The necessity also of a Quarter Master Genl. – Commy. of Musters &c. – also the want of Money for these diff.t branches of business. – The want of Law for the Gover.t of the army – and the want of Cloathing which do not seem to likely to be had here.

Comply with Gr. Instructions in giving an account & acknowledge the rec.t of Mr. Hancocks letter & answer it –

a great want of Engineers – and our disress on that acct as well as for the want of Powder which must be kept for small arms –

The great dissatisfaction at the appointment of Genl. Officers — Genl. Spencer with difficulty continue because Genl. Putnam is appointed over — Genl. Thomas much esteemed & earnestly desired to remain. The Provincial Congress requesting that Genl. Pomroy who was with Genl. Lee & now is abt. 1/ might not have his Commission — Spencer gone home without leave —

Tents to be sent from Phila.a —

Mounted Men

Paper

Provision Return

Yrs. &c.

Original rec.d from Lord Stanhope by General Washington, been examined & authenticated

Comm. req.d to state in a Memorial to the Congress the Duties of the several Officers of these Ranks & so to enable the Congress to judge — Several Clerks, and Issuing Commissaries, are necessarily employed by

[illegible] D.r Martin [illegible]	the Commissary Gen.l for which no Provision is made — several Assistant Quarter Masters are [illegible] ordered to [illegible] all along has been [illegible] to assist in the [illegible] allowed them?
agreeable to the Committee who will recommend it [illegible]	[illegible] getted [illegible] [illegible] this [illegible]
	[illegible] Second, [illegible]
[illegible]	When the Army receives such [illegible] little to the Country, how, and [illegible] is to be done?
Recommended to the Congress — that the Officers are to be allowed better Pay [illegible] should be given	[illegible] the Army should have [illegible] to [illegible] be indispensable [illegible] & Men — How are they are the Officers [illegible]

them.? the General has directed the [illegible]

[illegible] next.

The Committee think this too important to be determined by them [illegible]	[illegible] Congress deliberated on the [illegible] upon the Troops in the Town of Boston, & determined that at present it was not practicable. The General wishes to know how far it may be deemed [illegible] & advisable to avail himself of the [illegible] the Troops who propose to [illegible] in Boston by a Bombardment, when the [illegible] [illegible] up, or, in other [illegible] the Town, & the property [illegible] as that an attack upon [illegible] [illegible] Town must of consequence [illegible]
Money req. from Court of Adm.	

That the General pick out from each Company of such as are not Marksmen, [illegible] in such a Manner as will [illegible] with an allowance of Pay to [illegible] of the meanest

Mr. Dickson

Resolved to the Continental Congress

If necessary that being first voted it may be applied to the use of the Army referred to Gridley

Agreed that this is necessary

Resolved that what can be spared

Mr. Dickson: Little companies have [illegible] their Establishment in point of Numbers; [illegible] the [illegible] Officers than were allowed by Congress; it is highly [illegible]

Very unhappy disputes prevail in [illegible] regiment [illegible] Colonel is less [illegible] very obnoxious to that Corps and [illegible] which will prove the destruction of that Regiment if continued therein — What is to be done [illegible]?

[illegible] hinders with the [illegible] where? —

[illegible] to [illegible] apply? [illegible] Lead? [illegible] heated [illegible] to see applied [illegible] some of the Sorries have [illegible] the Camp at Cambridge which have [illegible] on them, and other articles wanted for [illegible] ought they to be meddled with?

Should there not be a reasonable [illegible] fixed upon Wood, Hay, and other [illegible] necessary to prevent [illegible] Imposition [illegible]?

[illegible] expressed against [illegible] distances Persons of Character, [illegible] purpose of [illegible] early and [illegible]

Lead is an article in [illegible] wanted, where, and in what quantities [illegible] Agreed that what can be spared [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Regard to the inquiry

[illegible] time in Doc[illegible] continuing in that office — Doct. Porter [illegible] made application to U. States? —

What steps are necessary to be pursued with Doct. Punch? — If guilty the interests for the Government of the Army peculiarly very inadequate punishment — and to allow him at liberty must be exceedingly dangerous

Inquiry by the General Court.

In what light are Vessels which are made captures of, with their cargos, to be considered? — that is, what part is to be assigned the captors in the pay of the continent whose Vessels are fitted out at the Genl Expense? & how is the residue of the cargo & effects to be disposed of?

§3. of the Nature of in[illegible] which given

What distinctions are necessary to be made between Vessels & cargos taken by the armed Vessels in the pay of the Continent, and those taken by Vessels fitted out by Individuals?

What ought to be [illegible] recommended to Gen. Court [illegible] to dispose of Prizes taken by Vessels fitted out by Individuals in Priv[illegible] that such [illegible] to made under Authority

[illegible] not the fitting out of Privateers by Individuals be done under some authority, and accidental Captures subject to some Regulation to prevent Piracy and other Capital abuses which may arise?

What is to be done with Prisoners taken in Transports in either of the above ways? — are they to be detained as Prisoners or released? — if the former, what distinctions are to be made by the Continental Vessels, & the other? — in respect to the Sever[illegible] Cognizance of them it is meant. —

[illegible] as well such Prizes as are taken by the Vessels armed by the Inhabitants or otherwise [illegible] all ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] employed as transports with their guards [illegible] to be set at liberty upon [illegible]

this not to be extended to a further Period than 1. April

In what manner are Prisoners be treated? What allowance made to them and how are they to be cloathed?

Ill treatment of Prisoners of War — same Rations as Soldiers. If that the Officers may be furnished by with Cloathing upon their Bills

Suppose Troops should be landed at Crew? as it is the Part of the Army before Boston (which the Militia Troops remain there) are to move

Agreed that the Number of Men in the new Army being [illegible] unless the Enemy [illegible] Troops may also be ordered in other parts of the Sea Coast to draw

How often should the Troops be paid? — the Sea Officers were divided upon it — some were for every Month, others

The present Rations allowed to the Officers

~~To~~ the Rations which have been Issued, and an Acct. thereof given to Congress and now laid before the Comte. agreeable

Allowance approved of mutt.

Is it advisable to propose an Exchange of Prisoners? — Should any of the Officers and Soldiers (of the Navy or Army) ever in our power be given up for any except the Officers & Soldiers of the American Army?

Exchange of Prisoners but not of Citizens

Proposition [illegible] on behalf of Ensign Moland to go and reside [illegible] Pennsylvania [illegible]?

Officers of different sorts [illegible] upon the [illegible] ordinary Service every Day they work — some Pounds Ten Shillings p. Month and with great difficulty get on these terms — is this agreeable

The General is to go on upon the present Establishment

day or two [illegible]
a very great Importance [illegible]
[illegible] the well being of the Colony
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] be means of
[illegible]
[illegible] have demanded
[illegible]

[illegible]
Ch: when warm, & comfortable. Barracks
must be erected for the [illegible] of the
Troops, [illegible]
[illegible]

formid, that I do not know what will be
the [illegible]

[illegible] among many other con-
sideration [illegible] to
to avoid these evils we are not to lose
sight of the difficulties — the hazard — and
the evils that may accompany the attempt
— nor, what will be the [illegible] consequences
[illegible]

[illegible]

again, if this measure may be deemed wise
ed — that there may be time for doing so
— & nothing of this importance resolved
on but after mature deliberation. I give
this frequent notice of the Intention of Coal
[illegible] that you are requested to attend at head Quarters.
~~[illegible]~~
His unnecessary, I am persuaded, to recom-
[illegible]

measure upon the address of the Stoker
I am with great esteem Sir &c

Gen Wachenhuse Draft
of Letter to the Generals
Cambridge
[illegible]

Cambridge, Feb. 21. 1838

My dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 10th inst, I must first say, that all Washington's Papers, which were in my possession, are now deposited in the department of State at Washington. I have no copies of the letters you desire. But for my own use I had an Index made of all the letters to Washington. The letters (now in the Dept of State) are bound in volumes. On the preceding pages I send you a list of all the letters from Joseph Reed, and the reference to the volume & page where each may be found; so that, if you think proper to obtain any which you do not now possess, these references will enable any person to find them, with no other trouble than that of turning over the leaves. I send the same references, also, to the letters of Cadwalader, which you mention. There are only two or three letters more from Cadwalader, which were written at a considerably later date, & not pertaining to your subject. nor do I remember any in which your grandfather is referred by Mr Clymer or Dr Rush.

The letters from ~~you~~ Washington to your grandfather, in '75, '76, copies of which you were so kind as to send to me, and a selection from which I printed, I recollect seemed to me the most imperfect, that I had ever seen from his pen. They were evidently written in great haste, in perfect confidence, and without any thought that they would ever be published. I used much more caution in selecting from those letters, than from any others, and more freedom in correcting slips of style & construction. I thought this due to the author, in bringing before the world letters of this description. I know not whether your judgment, and that of your brother will agree with mine, when you compare the originals with the printed texts; but I hope it will, because it is desirable, that, if you print the letters, our texts should be alike.

I am very glad to learn, that you are at length resolved to publish your grandfather's

Life in the form you propose. It will be a most valuable contribution to American history. I presume you intend to give it a historical character, and make free use of your materials. This is not the most popular form, but it is much the most important, and will give to the work a more durable interest, and connect it more intimately with the genuine sources of history. If I can do anything to lend aid, I trust you will write to me without reserve, and make any claims, which you think I can fulfil.

Mr Jefferson.
August 1824
2. Inclos —

To
William B. Reed, Esq.
Philadelphia.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY

The American Quarterly having ceased, as you informed me, I wish you would send the copy of Mr Prescott's book to Mr Smith, the editor of Walkie, and request him to make a proper notice of it on the cover of his paper. I doubt not he will very readily do it, as it will afford him a good theme, and the book itself will be an acquisition to his library.

Very sincerely your friend and obt sr

Jared Sparks

Wm. B. Reed, Esq.

THE

WASHINGTON-REED

AUTOGRAPHS.

NOTE.

The following letters, fifty-one in number, were part of a private correspondence, the most friendly and unreserved. Hence their value. Their true interest depends on being the exact transcript of what the writers thought and wrote. It was the hearty, familiar letter writing of two friends, between whom there had grown up, in the daily and hourly intercourse of the same quarters in the "Rebel" Camp, the most implicit, unsuspecting confidence. Mr. Reed was not exactly, at the age of thirty-three, of that class of thoughtless young men with whom it has been intimated Washington, himself but little over forty, was surrounded.* From June to October, 1775, Washington and his "First Secretary" had occupied the same house, lived at the same table, shared the same dangers and responsibilities, watched and counselled together as two men of affectionate unreserve are apt to do; and when they were separated, the confidence was not interrupted, the unreserve not broken; and Washington writing to Reed in Philadelphia, was as if Washington were talking to Reed, in the anxious seclusion of the head-quarters at Cambridge. Such are these letters as now preserved in their original form.—*Reed's Reprint*, p. 6.

* North American Review, July, 1852, p. 203.

Cambridge 30th Oct. 1775.

Dear Sir

After you left this yesterday Mr. Tuxer presented me with the Inclosed as there may be some observations worthy of notice I forward it to you, that it may be presented to the Congress; but I would have his remarks upon the frequentey of General Courts Martial considered with some degree of caution, for altho' the nature of his Office affords him the best opportunity of discovering the Injurious effects of the present Rules & Regulations for the Army, yet, a desire of lessening his own trouble may induce him to hasten more matters from a Court Martial where he is the prime Mover to Regimental Courts where he has nothing to do — I do not know that this is the case, but as it may be,

I think it ought not to be lost sight of.

In your conference with Mr. Bache be so good as to ask him whether the two posts which leave Philadelphia twice the Southern and both go through Alexandria, or if only one, which of them it is, the Tuesday or Saturday, that I may know how to order my Letters from this place.

My Letter to Col.o Harrison on the subject we were speaking of, is inclosed and open for your perusal — put a date and seal & make what use you please of it. — Let me know by the Post or at what the world says of Mr. & Mrs. — My Compliments to Mr. Reed & with sincere regard I am &c.

Yr. affect. Humble Ser.t

G. Washington

Colo. Pickering

General Washington
Cambridge 30. October
1775

Cambridge 8th Nov. 17[illegible]

Dear Sir

The Shipwreck of a Vessel said to be from Philadelphia to Boston near Plymouth, with 120 Pipes of Wine, 118 of which are saved — another from Boston to Halifax near Beverly, with about 240 £ worth of dry Goods — the taking of a Wood Vessel bound to Boston by Capt. Adams — and the sudden departure of Mr. Randolph occasioned by the death of his Uncle, are all the occurrences, worth relating, which have happened since you left this. —

I have ordered the Wine, and Goods to this place, for sale — I also [illegible] Papers [illegible] secrets [illegible] may [illegible] by [illegible] you [illegible] Quebec, so soon as [illegible], and be communicated — I have been happy enough to convince Capt. McPherson, as he says, of the propriety of returning to the Congress — he set out this day — I am happy in this having an opportunity of laying before them a scheme for the destruction of the Naval Force of G. Bri[illegible] — [illegible] Troops [illegible] Boston, to the 13th Inst., is said to land — [illegible] of which I refer to the Congress, [illegible] application from Sherman — you

can

[illegible] — I think he [illegible] Quebec [illegible] of the
[illegible] more of him in five days; I shall
[illegible] —

I had like to have forgotten
[illegible] heaviest [illegible] Mind; the new
arrangement of Officers — although
[illegible] enough to constitute the
New Corps, it hath employed the Genl Offi-
[illegible] and myself ever since Thursday
[illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] Officers [illegible]
[illegible] Officers, [illegible] are [illegible]
[illegible] should be discarded, because
[illegible] Regiments, under the New Es-
[illegible] cannot provide for them —
In short after a four days [illegible] ex-
[illegible] that numbers [illegible] have
[illegible] serve, but
[illegible]
the Regiments have been [illegible]
the number in them [illegible] correct
[illegible] conceal [illegible]
[illegible] Officers from [illegible] Service [illegible]
this will be a [illegible] from
the principals of common Justice, but
from the Letter of the Resolve, agreed on

at this place, but at present I see no
help for it — we are to have another
meeting on the matter this evening then something
must be determined as time is slipping off —
— My compliments to Mr. Reed, & other
enquiring friends. — I am with great
truth Dr. Sir Yr. most Obedt. & affecte. Servt.

Go. Washington

P.S. I had just finished
my Letter when [illegible]
ing Lieut. of the [illegible]
Captn. Coit, who had [illegible]
upon two Vessels [illegible]
[illegible] &c. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] there
[illegible]
[illegible] Flag [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

1775 Octo^r.

General Washington
Cambridge
8 November 1775.

Cambridge 22d Feb. 1809

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 4th from New York — 7th and — from Philadelphia of the last by Express have all before me; and gave me the pleasure to hear of your happy meeting with Mr. Reed, without any other accident than that of having a horse lame.—

The hint contained in the last of your letters respecting your continuance in my family, in other words, your wish that I could dispense with it gives me pain — You already, my dear Sir, know my sentiments on this matter; you cannot but be sensible of your importance to me; at the same time I wish again repeat what I have observed to you before, that I never think of promoting my convenience at the expence of your interest and inclination; — that I feel the want of you, yourself and for, when I consider you, the peculiar situation of Mr. Randolph's affairs obliged him to leave this soon after you did — that Mr. Barlow, contrary to my expectation, is not, in the smallest degree, a man, though spirited and willing — & that Mr. Harrison, though sensible, clever, & perfectly confidential, has never yet moved upon so large a scale as to comprehend at one view, the diversity of matter which comes before me, & so forth, & stand, assistance which every man in my situation must stand, more or less, in need of. — Mr. Moylan it is true, is very obliging, he gives me all the assistance he can but the

of the French army, so barely, deprive
me of his aid in a crisis short time — this
is my situation, judge you therefore how
much I wish for your return, especially
as the Armed Vessels, & the capitol of any
(in the state of the [illegible] whom I look for
place, have added an additional weight
to burthen, before too great for me to
stand under, with the smallest degree of
comfort to my own feelings — My Wife
is greatly disturbed at your, with this of
fence sincerely, & affectionately accompa
[illegible] the while [illegible] are dishonored

[illegible]

I have given S. S. an Col. Parkinson of the
[illegible] reports in Con[illegible] action, without
[illegible]

to my days in [illegible]
to speak to these [illegible]
ous of my abhorrence of [illegible]
the consequences which [illegible]
[illegible] have [illegible] of the advanced, may
for the un[illegible]
Treasury, which ne[illegible]
the Gaiter [illegible]

[illegible] measure [illegible] so much Members as were in
converse with [illegible] the want of Cash to pay
the Troops for the Months of Oct.r & Nov.r
as also to answer the demands of the Comy.
Quarter Master — & Contingencies — to do
— do not respect to but that which is Motor
which is to Sup[illegible] as the Kind, Medicines,
&c.a from Old York — they are much wanting
here, & cannot be had, I treated the Ch. upon
better terms than on a loan from the best of
Kings, so anxiously disposed to promote the
welfare of his American Subjects. —

Inclosed, to Ladies [illegible] Thursch is done to Gov.r Franklin
[illegible] posed of in a Connecticut Soal
[illegible] of Pen, Ink, & Paper. — to be
conveyed [illegible] in the English Language —
sale only, and [illegible] disposition! — the Q.r Ports in
so much for [illegible]

— Your Rec.d of our Dependance, up. the People
[illegible] believe
it has long [illegible] my political Creed, that,
~~that~~ the Ministry durst not have [illegible]
they did but under the firmest persuasion
that the People were with them — the Weather has
been unfavorable however for the arri
[illegible] of their Transports, only four Companies
of the 17th Regiment and 2 of the Artillery
[illegible] arrived [illegible] from
Ireland.

Our Parole [illegible] Commissioners, gu
[illegible] ate, Mutineers if they can
[illegible] there at Plymouth,
[illegible] my Progress
[illegible] & do Rec.d a Letter
been chose [illegible] Eastward — Arnold by
a Letter which left him the 27th ult.o, had then
[illegible] gone to the Chaudiere Pond, and was [illegible]

General Washington's
Cambridge Novemb. 20 1775

20 Octr. 1775.

of Coursen. His Fea
on up the lake
on his point crossed
left them, and
with 3 companies
to leave Sphere
the remainder
to
get into Quebec before
wait for further
Hancock, who ha
enclosed to him
letter, the
and Person is here
can
can, you go
tion for Mr. Washington
expect he will
in Philadelphia about
the
on reach you, order
as hither
and her Conductor, who
expect with Mr.
are
strangers to the
place
Sir
such means as
New York, that
much obliged
particular Instructions
the weather cold, her
must be short
especially as I expect
which fatigued; as they
to Philadelphia,
journey of at least
Miles. — My
finding of her among
friends near
Williamsburg 150 Miles
relen my care
Rey & Mrs. have me
nothing
Letters of the 20th
to be had from
Ticonderoga &c. I have,
order to reduce the
matter to a certainty,
employed Mr. Knox to
go to those places;
lead our wary
to
here
can spare. — My respects
from
Reed &c. — be assured that
am
with respect.

Cambridge 27th Nov. 1775.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 5th Inst. I now give leave me, & thank you for the attention paid to my Memorandum; the arrival of Money will be an agreeable circumstance.

I recollect no occurrance of moment since my last, except the taking Prisoners of Cobble Hill on Wednesday night — this is a seat for prize media, we had on ever since, when I wrote a single shot from Bunkers Hill — the Ship — or Floating Battery — what all this means we know not, unless some capital stroke is meditating. — I have caused two half Moon Batteries to be thrown up for occasional use, between Litchmeres Point & the Mouth of Cambridge River; and another work at the Causey go

ing

on to Litchmores point to command
that pass, & take the little Inlet which
runs up to Patterson's Fort — besides the
I have been, & mark'd out, three places
between Sewells point & our lines on Roxbury Neck for works to be thrown up, and
occasionally Man'd in case of a Sortie,
when the Bay gets Froze

By order of Genl. Howe, 300 of the
poor Inhabitants of Boston were landed
on Saturday last at point Shirley, destitute almost of every thing; the Gentlemen
of the Committee of Inf. informed us 1000 more
would soon follow that proceeded much distressed
of them Yesterday in the Evening I received
information that one of them was dead, & of
the rest dying; & the whole in the most
miserable & pitiful condition — I have order'd
Provision to them till they can be removed,
but am under dreadful apprehension
of their communicating the small Pox as it is

Chief in Boston — I have forbid any of them coming to this place on that acct. —

A Ship wch brought with Bri[illegible] Ordnance stores &c is missing, & gives great uneasiness in Boston, her convoy has been in a fortnight — I have order'd our Armd Vessels to keep a good look out for her — the [illegible] ca-sons which restrain'd you from acting fully, also prevent me, I shall then only add that I am —

Sir — Your Obt. Hble Servt

Gill[illegible]

If any Wagon should becoming this way, pray order a q.ty of good writing Paper to head Quarters; & Seal Wax

27 Aug.t 1775

To

Joseph L. Reed Esq.r

Gr

Philadelphia

General Washington
Cambridge
27th September
1775

Cambridge 28th Nov. 1775.

Dear Sir,

By Post, I wrote to you ~~this~~ yesterday in answer to your letter of the 16th, since which your favours of the 15th & 17th are come to hand. In one of these you justly observe, that the sudden departure of Mr. Randolph must cause you at once to feel the more sensibly felt; I can truely assure you that I miss you exceedingly; & if an express declaration of this be wanting, to hasten your return, I make it most heartily, and with some pleasure, as Mr. Lynch in a letter of the 13th provided with your's gives this information. —

"In consequence of your letter "by Mr. Reed I applied to the Chief "Justice who tells me the Supreme "Courts are totally held, and that

it

"it will be sometime before their term will
"return, that he knows of no Capitol suit
"now depending; and that it is very easy
"for Col. Reed to manage matters so as not
"to let that prevent his return to you; for
"Mr. O. Pleu is so heartily disposed to
"oblige you, and to serve the Cause, that no
"thing in his power will be wanting".

I could wish, my good friend, that these things may give a spur to your excellent return to return, and that I may see you here as soon as convenient, as I feel the want of your ready pen &c, greatly. —

What an astonishing spirit is, that those who are employed to sep the Continental Bills should not be attended to do it as fast as they are wanted. — They will prove the destruction of the army if they are not more attentive and diligent. — Such a dearth of Publick spirit, & want of Virtue; such stock jobbing, and sertility in all the lower arts to obtain advantages, of one kind or another, in this great change of Military arrangement I never saw before, and pray God I may

never be witness to again. — What will be the ultimate end of these Manœuvres is beyond my scan — I tremble at the prospect — We have been this time last Winter about 3500 Men — Perhaps these will have been obliged to allow Furloughs as far as 500 Men a Regiment; & the Officers I am persuaded, endeavor as many more — The Connecticut Troops will not be prevailed upon to stay longer than their term, leaving those who have enlisted for the next Campaign & mostly on Furlough, and such a dirty, mercenary Spirit pervades the whole, that I should not be at all surprized at any disaster that may happen. In short, after the last of this Month, our Lines, will be so weakened that the Minute Men and Militia must be called in for their defence — These be sure under no kind of Government themselves, will destroy the little subordination I have been laboring to establish, and run me into one evil, while I am endeavouring to avoid another; but the lesser must be chosen. — Could I have foreseen what I have, & am like to experience, no consideration upon Earth should have induced me to accept this

Command. — a Regiment, or any subordinate department would have been accompanied with sentiments, the satisfaction — perhaps the honour. —

I think I informed you in my letter of yesterday, that we had taken possession of, & had fortified Cobble Hill, & several points round the Bay, between that & Roxbury. — In a Night or two more we shall begin our work on Lechmere point; when, doubtless, we shall be honoured with their notice, unless Sir Howe is waiting the favourable moment he has been told of, to act in a capitol Plan, which is my fixed opinion. —

The Corps we already have, from the general estimate given in Yesterday's Week what sum it will take to supply this army, & that little less than 275,000 Dollars will answer the purpose. — Pray impress this upon the Members, & the necessity of forwarding the last sum voted, as 100,000 Dollars will be but a flea bite to our demands at this time — Did I not, in one of my late letters inform you, that I had sent Mr. Theo Drew New York to Sir Schuyler to see what Artillery I could get from those Parts? — He has been set out upon this

Business,

business about Ten days, and I have with Pain in with the Committee of Congress — Powder is also so much wanted, that nothing without it can be done —

I wish that matter respecting the Prisoners, hinted at by you, could come to some decision or Purpose — I have done nothing yet in respect to the proposed exchange of Prisoners, until resolved upon by them, or you, on this subject. — I am sorry Mr. White met with a disappointment in the Jerseys, as I could wish not to be under the necessity, from any former encouragement given him, of taking him into my Family. — I find it is absolutely necessary that the Aids to the Commander in Chief should be read at their Pen, which I believe he is not, to give that ready assistance that is expected of them; that I can have a tame hand therefore to have one of this, Tidsey —

It would give me singular pleasure to procure a few those two Gentlemen mentioned in your Letter, but believe me, it is beyond the power of conception to discover the absurdities & partiality of these People, and the con-

tu

trouble & vexation I have had in the New arrangement of Officers — after this, these different meetings of the Sen.r Officers! have, in a manner, been obliged to give into the humour & whimsies of the People, or get no Army. — The Officers of one Government would not serve in the Regiments of another (although there was no rear rate in a new Creation) — a Capt.n must be in this Regiment — a Subaltern in that Company. In short, ~~as~~ vacancies take place ~~as~~ in this Regiment in what manner they are filled. — Sometimes hence Disorders may be occasioned in, but it could not be done now, except in an Instance or two, without putting two Fingers to the hazard. —

I have this Instant, by Express, received the agreeable News of ~~the~~ the Capitulation of Montreal — The Det. of it you also, undoubtedly have — Poor Arnold I wonder where he is — I never left him with the Rear-division of his Army and is not Lee under Arrest. —

What can your Brethren of the Law mean by saying your perquisites as Secretary must be considerable? — I am sure they have not a mouthful to one

Farthing. — Capt. Brewerton and therefore I shall add no more than that I am &c &c

Yr. Most Obed. & Humble Servt.

[illegible]

P.S. Please to let Mr. Deakhen that I answerd his query by Capt. Pearce desire the Rum & Sugar off the Bosuncs, & those sitted on in the Continent

General Washington
Cambridge 28. November
1775

1775
Nov. 28.

Cambridge 30th Nov. 1775

Dear Sir,

Two days ago I wrote
Quite to you in Capt. Brewer — & this
Letter proceeds — since which your favor
of the 20th with the agreeable Postscript
of the 21st, is come to hand, and demands
my acknowledgements for the Civility
intended Mr Warrington, by your dear
Mr Warrington
Bell

Relation in informing of you, that by Express last Night from Lake Erie, I received the glad tidings of the Capture of the Nancy Store Ship from London, by Capt. Mannley, contents as p. the Inclosed copy. Taken by Mr Pierce to save Ma, you must know the Sensible of Exaltation) — the, wine, kind, mist'd the greatest prize in the world; their whole Ordinance the Ship containing it, being just

a head. — But — he could not have gone
both; and we must be thankful, as
I truly am, for this Instance of divine
favour; for nothing, surely, even came
more ~~A propos~~ — that no part of
it may slip threw my fingers / for
I have no doubt, as this Capture was
made in sight of the other Vessell, of
there being some ~~so~~ vessel, just to receive
it; I instantly upon receiving the
Acct, orderd four Companies down
to protect the Prize. — Teams to be
Impressd to remove them without
delay — & Col. Moncrieffe to Assemble
the Pea[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of Cape Ann to secure the removal
~~of the~~ to places of safety

The colouring of that affair
at Lifchmere point has been rather too high — The alacrity of the
Rifle-men & Officers upon that oc-
casion

occasion did them honour. to which Colo. Patterson's Regiment & some others were equally entitled, except in a few Instances; but the Tide, at that time, was so exceedingly high as to compel a large circuit before our Men could get to the Causey, by which means the Enemy, except a small number of Parties distant from the Sea shore on this side near 400 Yards had deserted, or were about to Imbark at the Place there for so that Capt. Wenedt was at a great distance; however that he went to, & was he very exceptable to the Troops, spiritedly enough

This little Manouvre of the Enemy is nothing more than a prelude. — we have certain advice of a Scourge from Marblehead, a Man of Property, having carried in ~~[illegible]~~ to General Howe, a true State of the temper

and

and disposition of the Troops towards
the new Enlistment; and hath given
him the strongest assurances of the
practicability of making himself
master of the Province in a very short
time, from the disaffection of the
[illegible]
endeavouring to counteract him
therefully, the Rebels are [illegible]

30 Oct. 1775

Yesterday our Bombardiers
on Litchmere Point last Night,
~~The Battery~~ Work Party came off all day without
having met with any Interruption
The weather favoured our [illegible]
[illegible]
an Officer in the Army but took [illegible]
an Attack. This has no effect upon the
Connecticut Regiments they are resolved
to go off. — My best respects to
Mr Reed & any other Friends — be
assured I am
Dear Sir Your Affect. [illegible]

Cambridge 15th Decr 1775.

Dear Sir,

Since my last, I have had the pleasure of receiving your Favours of the 28th Octr and 2d Novr — I must again repeat my gratitude for the attention shewn Mrs Washington at Philadelphia — Nor can it but be pleasing, altho' it did, in some measure, impede the progress of her journey.

I am much obliged to you for the hints contained in both of the above Letters respecting the jealousies which you say are gone abroad. — I have studiously avoided in all Letters intended for the publick eye — I mean for that of the Ministry — every expression that could give pain or uneasiness — and shall observe the same rule with respect to private Letters, further than appears absolutely necessary for the elucidation of facts. — I cannot charge myself with incivility, or, what in my opinion is barbarous, ceremonious Civility, to the Gentlemen of this Colony; but if such my conduct appears, I will endeavour at a Reformation, as I can assure you my dear Sir that I wish to conduct in such a line as will give most General Satisfaction. — You know, that it was my wish at first to have a certain number of the Gentlemen of this Colony every day to

dipper, but, unintentionally I believe by any body, we some Lex or other missed of it; if this has given rise to the jealousy, I can only say that I am very sorry for it, at the same time I add, that it was rather owing to inattention, or ~~[illegible]~~ mere hasty and too much attention to other matters, which caused me to be neglectful. The extracts of letters, from this Camp which so frequently appear in the Penn.a Papers are not only written without my knowledge, but without my approbation, as I have always thought they must have a disagreeable tendency; but there is no restraining Mens tongues, or Pens, when charged with a little or nitty, as in the accounts given of the Pulaski men. —

With respect to what you have said of your situation, to what I have before said on this subject, I can only add, that whilst you leave the door open to my expectation of your return, I shall not think of supplying your place. — If ultimately, you resolve against coming, I should be glad to know it as soon as you have determined upon it. — The Congress have acted well in respect to the pay of, and advance to the Men, but if they cannot get the money, I see no dispatch for business at this very critical time, for we have not at this time money enough in Camp to answer the Commissaries & Qu.r Master. acct.s nor even to pay, and advance to the Troops — what a condition this!

The acct which you have given of the sentiments of People in respect to my con-

duct is extremely flattering — pray God I may continue to deserve them in the perplexed and intricate situation I stand in — Our Enlistment goes on slow, by the Returns last Monday only 5917. Men are engaged for the ensuing Campaign, & yet we are told, that we shall get the number wanted as they are only playing off to see what advantage, are to be made, & whether a bounty cannot be extorted either from the Publick at large, or ~~from~~ Individuals, in case of a draft — time only can discover this — I doubt the measure exceed ingly.

The fortunate capture of the vessels has supplied us with Cloth, & many other articles we stood in need of — but — we still have our wants — We are securing our Approach to Litchmore's Point, unable upon any principle whatever to account for their Silence, unless it be to lull us into a fatal security to favour some attempt they may have in view about the time of the great Camp they expect will take place the last of this Month. If this be the drift, they deceive themselves for if possible it has increased our Vigilance, & induced us to fortify all the Avenues to our Camp so as to guard against any approaches [illegible] Sea. —

If the Virginians are wise, that Ren-
Gaulter to the Rights of Humanity, Lord Dun-
more, should be instantly crush'd, if it take
the force of the whole Colony to do it. — Otherwise
like a snow Ball in rolling, his Army will ge-
size — some through Fear — some through pro-
mises — and some from Inclination joining
& his Standard — But that which renders the
measure indispensably necessary, is, the
Persons, for if he gets formidable Numbers
of them will be tempted to join who will be
afraid to do it without. — I am exceeding
happy to find, that that William Connelly is
seized. I hope if there is any thing to convict
him, that he will meet with the Punishment
due to his demerit, & Treachery. —

We impatiently wait for Accts.
from Arnold — would to God we may hear
he is in Quebec & that Canada is in our
possession. — My best respects to Mr. Reed
I am Dear Sir

Your Affect. Friend & Servt.

P.S.

The Small Pox is
in every part of Boston
the Inhabitants have not had
never had it, are now under Inoculation — consi-
dered as a Security against any attempt of
ours. — A third Ship load of People is come
out to point their Cannon — Thus escapes the Small
Pox in the Camp, & the Country round about,
it will be miraculous — Every precaution that
can be, is taken to guard against this Evil
both by the General Court & myself.

G W —

5221, no. 31

Cambridge 25th Decr 1775.

Dear Sir

Since my last your favours of the 7 & 8th are come to hand — the first last yesterday the 2d to-day — for the several pieces of information they contained I thank you —

[illegible] in this Quarter since my last except the letters [illegible] — [illegible] her considerable fall of rain; which, together, have interrupted our work on Lechmere's Point; which otherwise, we [illegible] have completed before this. — At first we only intended a Breast Work, but afterwards, constructed two Redoubts, in one of which a Mortar will be placed, at a proper season — a line of [illegible] extend from the point of the [illegible] side the Causey [illegible] Roxbury Road [illegible] Roxbury Borders & Brookline, [illegible] ~~Roxbury also commands~~ [illegible]

we have received without injury, except from the first case. The A. appears perfectly free from Parasites, we have seen none yet but have returned, except upon the ship, which was soon rid of by means of ___ At the same time that I thank you for stopping visitors in search of preferment, it will give me pleasure to shew civilities to any of your recommendations — I did see Scatterman that is such a week hence, expect to come here with one letter of introduction, as if, but for me in an awkward situation with respect to my conduct towards them —

I do not very well understand a paragraph in your letter which seems to intimate that more [redacted] to Col. Hancock, expressive of the unwillingness of the Connecticut Troops to be deemed Continental. — If you did not misconceive what Col. Hancock read — he read what I never wrote; as there is no expression in any of my letters that I can either recollect, or find that has a tendency that way; further than their unwillingness to have a

have Officers of other Governments pro-
ed in their Corps, in which they are
not singular, as the same practice
exists throughout the whole. — I have, in
some measure, anticipated the desire
of the Connecticut Delegates, by a kind
of Representation to each of the New
England Governments of the impra-
cticability of my ever [illegible] re-
ceive compliments of this kind by Voluntary En-
listment, & submitting it to their con-
sideration, whether if the Honorable
Government were so pleased to order
each. Corps should not be under upw-
ards a proportionate number of Recruits
what they could do in the matter ob-
tains to be known. — The Militia w.
have supplied the places of the Con-
necticut Regiment, be, I have hoped
better than I expected under our wants
of Wood Barracks for they are not
yet done) Blankets &c. — w.h these
deficiencies we are [illegible] [illegible]
hope, it may yet be in Spirits,
to give the Troops a warm Reception

25 Dec 1775

if they think proper to come out. — Our want of Powder is inconceivable — a daily waste & no supply, administers a gloomy prospect.

I fear the destination of the Regt. lately from your Port is too generally known to do the cause — [illegible] put into New York the other day, & were [illegible] ordered [illegible] supposed to be for this place.

I am so much indebted for the civilities I received from Mr. Washington on her first regimental hands, that I cannot refrain from troubling you to acknowledge them. — Some of the inclosed letters (keep the gross of your letters to the Post Office) are directed to the Commd. Officers of the Battalion of Pa. for the Commission & Pay as also an other equally [illegible]. — We [illegible] your Fines & the Lapp, return [illegible] man of the Regt. being [illegible] Pa. Regt. & Hosp. [illegible]

Yr. [illegible]

Cambridge 4th Jany. 1776*

*(It is presumed this letter is misdated 1775 for 1776)

Dear Sir,

Since my last, I have recd. your obliging favours of the 19th & 28th. ult.s & thank you for the Articles of Intelligence therein contained; as I also do for the Butter, which accompanied the last letter, altho. I had got a set, better I think, made at Concord —

I am exceedingly glad to find, that things wear a better face in Virginia than they did some time ago; but I do not think that any thing less than life, or liberty, will free the Colony from the effects, of cruel Disasters, Resentments and Injuries. —

We are all lately favoured with a sight of his Majesty's most gracious Speech, breathing sentiments of tenderness & compassion for his deluded American subjects; the Echo is not yet come to hand; but we know what it must be; and in word for it said, we ought to have believed & acted accordingly. We now know the ultimatum of British Justice. — The Speech I send you — a volume of them was seized by the Boston Sons — and, farcical enough, we gave [illegible] for them [illegible] Coat

C

I mean, without knowing or intending it, for on that day, the day which gave birth to the New Army, but before the Proclamation came to hand, we had hoisted the Union Flag in compliment to the United Colonies, but behold! it was received in Boston as a token of the deep Impression the Speech had made upon us, and as a signal of Submission — so we learn by a person out of Boston last Night — by this time I presume they begin to think it strange that we have not made a formal surrender of our Lines. — Admiral Shuldam is arrived at Boston. — the 55th and greatest part, of the 17th Regiment, are also got in there — the rest of the 5 Regiments from Ireland were intended for Halifax & Quebec, those for the first are arrived here, the others we know not where they are gone to. —

It is easier to conceive, than to describe the situation of my Mind for some time past, & my feelings under our present ~~extraordinary~~ circumstances; search the vast volumes of history through, & I much question whether a case similar to ours is to be found. — to wait, to maintain a Post against the flower of the British troops, for six Months, hope — without ——— and at the end of them

them to have our Army disbanded and another to raise within the same tance of a Reinforced Enemy — it is too much to attempt — what may be the genera Issue of the last Manoeuvre time only can tell — I wish this Month was we lover our head. — The same desire of retiring into a Winter Quarter seiz'd the Troops of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, & Massachusetts (so soon as their time expired) as had worked upon those of Connecticut, notwithstanding many of them made a tender of their Services to continue till the Line could be sufficiently strengthened — we are now left with a good deal less than half raised Regiments, and about 5000 Militia who only stand engaged to the middle of this Month; after, according to custom, they will depart, let the necessity of their stay be never so urgent. — Thus it is that for more than two Months past I have scarcely immerged from one difficulty before I have plunged into another — how it will end God in his great goodness will direct, I am thankful for his protection to this time. — We are told that we shall soon get the Army compleated, but I have been told so many things which have never come to pass, that I distrust every

thing

I fear your Fleet has been in [illegible], and the destination of it is well known, that the end will be defeated, if the Vessels escape. — Now is the arrival of Detach'd Troops in the West Indies, & the hostile appearance there, to be reconciled with that part of the Kings Speech wherein he assures Parliament, "that, as well "from the Assurances I have received, as "from the general appearance of Affairs "in Europe, I see no probability that the "measures which you may adopt will "be interrupted by disputes with any "foreign Power"

I hope the Congress will not think of adjourning at so Important, & critical a Juncture as this. — I wish they would keep a watchful eye to New York — from Capt. Sears's accts. (see here) much is to be apprehended from that Quarter. — A Fleet is now fitting out at Boston consisting of 5 Transports & two Bomb Vessels under Convoy of the Scarborough & Fowey Men of War — 300 some say others more, Troops are on board with Flat bottom'd Boats — it is whispered, as if designedly, that they are intended for New Port, but it is generally believed that they are bound either to Long Island, or Virginia — the other Transports are taking in Water & a good deal of Bisquet is baking — some say for a Fleet to lay in Rhode Island, to keep off the Navy of France, which I think a mere Bugbear — a Navy of France, Britain — ah! Never is consulting the Interests of the Seas, or Kingdom, in the Leagues, & Treaties, with Spain, & Portugal

Cambridge 14th Jan. 1775.

Dear Sir,

The bearer presents an opportunity to me of acknowledging the receipt of your favour of the 30th ult. which never came to my hands till last night; and, if I have not done it before, of your other of the 23d preceding.

The hints you have communicated from time to time not only deserve, but does most sincerely, and cordially meet with my thanks — nor cannot render a more acceptable service, nor, in my estimation give me a more convincing proof of your friendship, than by a free, open, & undisguised account of every matter relative to myself, or conduct. — I can bear to hear of imputed, or real errors; the man who wishes to stand well in the opinion of others must do this, because he is thereby enabled to correct his faults, or remove prejudices which are imbibed against him; for this reason I shall thank you for giving me the opinion of the world upon such points as you know me to be interested in; for as I have but one capital object in view, I could wish to make my conduct coincide with the wishes of mankind as far as I can consistently

sistently — I mean without departing from the great line of Duty which, though hid under a cloud for sometime, from a peculiarity of circumstances, may nevertheless bear a scrutiny. — My constant attention to the great, and perplexing objects which continually arise to my view, absorbs all lesser considerations, & indeed scarcely allows me time, to reflect that there is such a body in existance as the General Court of this Colony but when I am reminded of it by a Committee; nor can I, upon recollection, discover in what Instances I wish they would be more explicit? I have been inattentive to, or slighted them. — They could not, surely, conceive that there was a propriety in unbosoming the secrets of an Army to them — that it was necessary to ask their opinion of throwing up an Intrenchment — forming a Battalion, &c. &c., it must therefore be what I before hinted to you, & how to remedy it I hardly know, as I ~~have~~ am acquainted with few of the Members, never go out of my own Line, or see any of them in them. —

I am exceeding sorry to hear that your little Fleet has been shut in by the frost. — I hope it has held over this, & given you some proof of the utility of it. — and enabled the Congress to bestow a little more attention to the affairs of this Army, which suffers exceedingly

by their over much business — or too little attention to it. — We are poor without any Money in our Treasury — Powder in our Magazines — Arms in our Stores — We are without a Brigadier (the want of which has been twenty times urged) — Engineers — Engineers (though a Committee has been appointed these two Months to establish them) — and by & by, when we shall be called upon to take the Field, shall not have a Tent to lay in — or bro[illegible] pots, what is doing with mine? —

These are evils, but small in comparison of those, which disturb my present repose. — Our Inlistments are at a stand — the Gears I ever entertained are realized — that is, the discontented Officers (for I do not know how else to accost it) have thrown such difficulties, or stumbling blocks in the way of Recruiting that I no longer entertain a hope of compleating the Army by Voluntary Inlistments; & I see no more, or likelihood of one, to do it by other means. — In the two last weeks we have Inlisted but ab.t 1000 Men, whereas I was confidently bid to expect, by all the Officers I conversed with, that we should, by this time, have had the Regiments nearly compleated — Our total number upon Paper amounts to ab.t 10500 but as a large portion of these are detached yet found, I never expect to receive them; as, an ineffectual Order has once issued to call them in — another is now gone forth, peremptorily requiring a

Officers under pain of being Cashiered, & Recruit, as being treated as Deserters, to join their respective Regiments by the first day of next month. that I may know my real strength; but if my fears are not imaginary, I shall have a dreadful account of the advanced Months pay. — In consequence of the apurance, wise, & my expectation of having at least Men, [illegible] defend our lines, to which may be added my unwillingness of burthening the country with unnecessary expence, no Relief of Militia has been order'd to supply the places of those who are released from their Engagement to morrow, and on whom (tho' many have premis'd to continue out the Month) there is no security of their stay. Thus am I situated with respect to Men — with regard to Arms I am yet worse off — before the dissolution of the old Army I issued an Order directing three judicious Men of each Brigade to attend Genl — and appraise the good Arms of every Regiment — & finding a very great unwillingness in the Men to part with their Arms, at the same time not having it in my power to pay them for the Me[illegible] Gen.l & Gen.l I threatned, severely, that every Soldier who carried away his Firelock, without leave, should never receive pay for those Months, yet, so many have been carried off, partly by stealth, but chiefly as condemn'd, that we have not, at this time 100 Guns in the Stores of those that have been taken in the Prize Ship,

and

and from the Soldiery notwithstanding our Regiments are not half complete at the same time. I am told, and believe it, that to restrain the Enlistment to Men with Arms, you will get but few [illegible], & still fewer of the latter wch would be [illegible] for any thing:— Men be [illegible] furnish'd [illegible] to this & the Neighbouring Colonies, but with what success, time only can tell.— The reflection upon my situation, & that of this Army, produces many an uneasy hour when all around me are wrapped in sleep.— Few People know the Predicament we are in, on a thousand acc^ts. — Some still will believe, if any disaster happens to these Lines, it [illegible] it flows — I have often thought how much happier I should have been, if, instead of accepting of a command under such circumstances, I had [illegible] my Musket upon my shoulder & entered the Ranks, or, if I could have justified the measure to Posterity, & myself [illegible] I had retired to the back Country, & lived in a Wigwam — If I should be able to rise superior to these, and many other difficulties which might be innumerated, I shall most religiously believe that the finger of Providence is in it, to blind the Eyes of our Enemys; for surely if we get well thro' this Month, it must be for want of their knowing the disadvantages we labour under. —

Could I have foreseen the difficulties which have come upon us — could I have known that such a backwardness would have been discovered in the old Soldiers to the Service, as the Generals upon Earth should ever have convinced me of the propriety of delaying an attack upon Boston till this time. — Whether it can now be attempted I wish not ~~[illegible]~~ undertake to say, but thus much I will answer for, that no opportunity can present itself earlier than I wishes — but — as this Letter discloses some Interesting truths, I shall be somewhat uneasy till I hear it gets to your hand although the Conveyance is thought safe. —

We made a successful attempt a few Nights ago upon the Tories near Brackett's Fish — a Party under Maj.r Knolton crossed upon the Mill dam (the Night being Dark) and set fire to, and burnt down Eight out of 14 which were standing, and which we found they were daily ~~[illegible]~~ pulling down for Fuel — five Soldiers, & the wife of one of them, inhabiting one of the Houses, were brought off Prisoners; an other Soldier was killed; none of ours hurt.

Having undoubted information of the Embarkation of Troops (somewhere from three to 500) at Boston and being convinced that they were designed either for New York Government (from whence we have some very disagreeable Accts. of the Conduct of the Tories) or Virginia, I dispatched Sen.r Lee a few days ago express

to secure the City of New York from falling into their hands, as the consequences of such a blow might prove fatal to our Interest. — It is also to censure a little the conduct of the Long Islanders, & such others, as have, by their conduct & declarations, proved themselves inimical to the common Cause. — To effect these purposes it is to raise Volunteers in Connecticut, & call upon the Troops of New Jersey, if not certainly to any Order of Congress. —

By a Ship just arrived at Portsmouth (New Hampshire) we have London Prints to the 2d. of Nov, containing the Addresses of Parliament, which contain little more than a Copy of the Speech, with assurance, of standing by his Majesty with their Lives and Fortunes — the Capt. says there were Three or Four of them Passengers, & that we have nothing to expect but the most vigorous exertions of Administration, who have a dead Majority upon all Questions, although the Duke of Grafton & General Conway have joined the Minority, as also the Bishop of Peterborough. — The Captains also inform, confidently, that the Commissioners from Ireland arrived safe; & that by a violent Storm on the 10th. of October the Transports were forced (in a very distressful condition) into Milford Haven (Wales)

and were not in a Condition to Put to Sea when they left London and that the weather has been such since as to prevent heavy loaded Ships from making a passage by this time. — One or two Transports they add, were thought to be coming; but these arrived some considerable time ago at Boston with Companies of the 17th.

24 Jan.y 1775

Mr. Lyde has been committed to the Tower upon the Information of a certain Lieut.t or Adjutant Richardson formerly of a City for treasonable practices — an Intention of seizing his Majesty & possessing himself of the Tower appears said in the Crimes — but is admitted to Bail; himself in two & two Ty in £250 each. — What are the Conclusions of the wise ones with regard to Armaments in the Northern Seas? — but previous to this, is there any certainty of such an armament? — the Captains who are sensible Men, heard nothing of this when they left England, nor does there appear any apprehensions on this score in any of the measures, or speeches of Administration — I should think the Congress will not — ought not — to adjourn at this important Crisis — but it is highly necessary, when I am at the end of a second Sheet of Paper, that I should adjourn my Recit. of matters to another Letter. — I shall then close, in Mr. Washington's name thank you for your good wishes, & wishes towards her, & add to mine to Mr. Reed &c. conclude Dear Sir Your Affect.e Serv.t —

Cambridge 23.d Jan: 1776.

Dear Sir,

Real necessity, compells me to ask you whether I may entertain any hopes of your returning to my Family? — if you can make it convenient, and will hint the matter to Col.o Harrison, I dare venture to say that Congress will make it appear to you in every shape they can — My business increases very fast, and my distrobes for want of you, alone, urth it — Mr. Harrison is the only Gentleman of my Family that can afford me the least assistance in writing — Mr. and Mrs. Moylan, whose time must now be solely Imployed in his department of Commissary, have heretofore afforded me their aid. — & I have hinted to them in consequence of what you signified in some former Letter that each has been Laurically had a great deal of trouble, should receive one third of your pay, reserving the other third, contrary to your desire, for yourself; My distress, and Embarrassment, is in a way of being very considerably Increased, by an Occurrance in Virginia w.ch I fear will compel Mr. Harrison to leave me, or suffer considerably by his stay. — He has wrote herewith by the last post to receive his orders, cannot be dispensed with — If he should go, I shall really be distressed beyond Measure as I know no Persons able to supply your place,

* "Have the Goodness, Sir, and receive a letter from Wm Graham, in answer to mine, informing me that Mr. Lee, a fully competent Gentleman, with my request, a Regiment of Horse in Virginia, as soon as possible. — Mr. Lee is Officer — Quartermaster Ga. &c. &c. Offices — Quartermaster Ga. &c. &c. Offices — Quartermaster Ga. &c. &c. Offices

(in this part of the world) with whom I would chuse to live in unbounded confidence. — In short, for want of an acquaintance with the People hitherward, I know of none who appear to me qualified for the office of Secretary. —

The business, as I hinted to you before, is considerably increased, by being more comprehensive; and, at this time (from the great changes which have, and are happening every day) perplexed; so that you would want a good Writer and a methodical Man, as an Assistant or Copying Clerk — such an one I have no doubt will be allowed, and the choice I leave to yourself, as he should be a person in whose Integrety you can confide, and on whose capacity — care — & method you can rely. — At present, my time is so much taken up at my Desk, that I am obliged to neglect many other essential parts of my Duty; it is absolutely necessary therefore for me to have persons ~~about me~~ that can think for me, as well as execute Orders — This it is that pains me, when I think of Mr. White's expectation of an opening into my Family, if an opening happens. — I can derive no earthly assistance from such a Man — and my friend Bayler is much such another Although as good, and as obliging a person as any in the world. — As it may be necessary that the pay of the under Secretary should be fixed, that you may if you incline to return, ~~[illegible]~~ and should

Engage one, knew what to premise him, I have wrote to Col. Harrison & Mr. Lynch on this subject. —

The Interruption of the Post has prevented the receipt of any Letters from the Southward since this day week so that we have but little knowledge of what is passing in that Quarter. — The unfortunate repulse of our Troops at Quebec — the death of the brave, & much to be lamented Genl. Montgomerie, & wounding of Col. Arnold, wch, I fear, give a very unfavourable turn to our affairs in that Quarter as I have no opinion at all of W——n's Extraordinary genius. —

Immediately upon the receipt of the unfortunate Intelligence, & General Schuyler's Intimation of his having no other dependance than upon me for men, I address'd Massachusets, Connecticut, & N: Hampshire (in behalf of the Continent) for a Regiment each, to be March'd forthwith into Canada, as there continued, if need be, till the 1st. of Jany. upon the same establishment of those Raising for these Lines. — It was Impossible to spare a Man from hence, as we want Eight or Nine thousand of our Establishment, and are obliged to depend upon Militia for the defence of our Works. — equally improper did it appear to me to wait (situated as our affairs were) for a requisition from Congress after several days debate, perhaps, when in the meanwhile all might be

lost

23d Jan.y 1776

lost.—the urgency of the case therefore, must appologize to Congress for my adoption of this measure.—Gov.r Trumbull indeed anticipated my request, for he, & his Council of safety had voted a Regiment before my request had reached him—the Gen. Court here have also voted another, and I have no doubt of New Hampshire's doing the like and that the whole will soon be on their March*—Col.o Warner, & others we are told, are already on their March, so that it is to be hoped, if these bodies have but a good Guide, our affairs may still be retrieved in Canada before the Kings Troops can get reinforced.—

They are pulling down the Houses in Boston as fast as possible:—& we have late Acc.ts from there, which 'tis said may be relied on, that General Clinton is actually saild from thence with a detachment (no acc.t making it more than 500) for the Southward, some say Virginia, others New York. but all is conjecture. whether this is the Fleet that has been making up for sometime at Nantasket, or another, I cannot with certainty say.—

In my last, I informd you I think of the expedition I had sent General Lee on to New York—should Clinton steer his Course thither, I hope he will meet with a formidable, & proper Reception:—I shall conclude with informing you, that we should have had a formidable work on Litchmores point long ago if it had not been for the frost, & that if Congress mean that we should do any thing this winter

*No time must be lost in forwarding Powder.—I have ordered in Militia to take advantage of Circumstances—but I see no appearance as yet, of a Bridge— I am with the greatest esteem & sincerely D.r Sir Y.r Affect.e Go: Washington

Cambridge 31st of Mar. 1776.

My dear Sir,

In my last (date not recollected) by Mr. John Adams, I communicated my distress to you, on acct. of my want of your assistance — since this, I have been under some concern at doing so, lest it should precipitate your return before you were up for it, or bring on a final resignation, which I am unwilling to think of, if your return can be made convenient and agreeable — The truth is, that from a variety of causes my business has been, & now is, multiplied & perplexed; which to me means of execution is greatly contracted. — This may be a cause for my wishing you here, but no movement to your coming, if you hesitated before. —

I have now to thank you for your favours of the 15th, 16th & 20th Inst.; and for the several articles of Intelligence which they convey — the acct. given of your Navy, at the same time that it is exceedingly unfavourable to our wish, is a lit. pleasure to me, inasmuch as it has deprived us of a few necessary articles which otherwise would have been sent hither; but which, a kind of fatality, (I fear) will for ever deprive us of

— In the Province of New York, we are not to receive a particle of what you expect would be sent from France — the time and season is passing away, as I believe the Troops in Boston also wish, before the Season for taking the field arrives. — I dare say they are preparing for it now as we have undoubted Intelligence of Clinton leaving Boston with a number of Troops by different Accts from Gen.l one hundred to 10 Companies of Grenadiers, & Light Infantry, believed to be destined for Long Island, or New York, in consequence of assurances from Governor Tryon of a reinforcement from the Tories there. —

I hope my Countrymen of Virginia will rise superior to any robs, the whole Navy of Great Britain can bring on them, & that the destruction of Norfolk, & threatned devastation of other places, will have no other effect than to unite the whole Country in one indissoluble Band against a Nation which seems to be lost to every sense of Virtue, and those feelings which distinguish a civilized People from the most barbarous Savages. — A few more of such flaming arguments as were exhibited at Falmouth and Norfolk added to the sound Doctrine, and unanswerable reasonings contained in the Cam

pamphlet) Common Sense, with not few numbers at a loss to decide upon the Propriety of a Seperation. —

By a Letter of the 21st. Inst. from Wooster I find that Arnold was continuing the Blockade of Quebec the 19th. — which, under the heaviness of our loss there, is a most favourable circumstance, & exhibits a fresh proof of Arnold's Ability and perseverence in the midst of difficulties. — The re-inforcement ordered to him will, I hope, compleat the entire conquest of Canada this Winter, and our for the loss of the Galatea Shield & his Crew. Should these two be ruff weather favourable than otherwise; for had the Country been infested by such a handful of Men it is more than probable that it would have been left to the defence of a few, & consequently remain in the power of our Enemy with ease, notwithstanding the Importance of Ticonderoga, but the numbers which are requisite to attend

Inclosed for your two Beef & Poultry Vessels from New York, I can acquaint you that our commodore, Barney, has just taken two ship from White Haven to Boston with Coal & Potatoes & sent them into Plymouth & Gosport a Tender is now in the River Dane where

Jany. 31. 1776.

the Cepsels were taken, I expected receive his Prizes time to get off, either with the Tide, it is, to quit the combat, & be move off from the Men of War which were Spectators of this Scene —

In my last I think I informd you of my sending Genl Lee to New York with Intention to secure the Series of Long Island &c.; and to prevent, if possible, the Ministerial Troops from making a Lodgment there; but I fear the Congress will be duped by the Representations from that Government or quiet them in such a manner as to become Martyrs to the Expedition. — The City seems to be entirely under the Government of Tryon & the Captn. of the Man of War.

Mr. Washington desires I will thank you for the Picture sent her. — Mr. Campbell whom I never saw to my knowledge has made a very formidable figure of the commander in Chief giving him a sufficient portion of Terror in his Countenance. — Mr. Neal informs also to receive his compliments to Mr. Reed &c. as I do — & with the most respectful Regards I remain

Dear Sir Your most obed. Servt

Geo. Clymer

Colo. Mathews

Cambridge Feb.y 1st 1776.

My dear Sir,

I had wrote the letter here with Inclosed before your favour of the 21st came to hand — The Accot. given of the behaviour of the Men under Genl. Montgomerie is exactly consonant to the opinion I have formd of these People, and such as they will exhibit abundant Proofs of in similar cases whenever called upon — Place them behind a Parapet — a Breast Work — Stone Wall — or any thing that will afford them Shelter, and from their knowledge of a Firelock, they will give a good Acct. of their Enemy, but I am as well convinced as if I had seen it, that they will not Manage boldly up to a Work — or if exposed in a plain — and yet, if we are furnished with the Means, and the Weather will afford us a Passage, and we can get in Men (for these three things are necessary) something must be attempted. — The Men must be brought to face danger — they cannot allways have an Intrenchment or a Stone Wall as a safe guard or Shield — and it is of essential Importance that the Troops in Boston should be destroyed if possible

before they can be re-inforced, or remov
—this is clearly my opinion — whether cir
cumstances will admit of the trial — or
if tryed what will be the Event, the all-
wise disposer of them alone can tell —

The evils arising from short,
or even any limited Enlistment of the
Troops are greater, and more extensi
ly hurtful than any person (not an eye
witness to them) can form any Idea of
— It takes you two or three Months to bri
New men in any tolerable degree acqua
ted with their duty — it takes a longer
time to bring a People of the temper, an
genius of these into such a subordinat
way of thinking as is necessary for a
Soldier — But when this is accomplished,
the time approaches for their dismiss
n, and you beginning to make Inte
rest with them for their continuance for
another limitted period; in the doing
of which you are oblig'd to relax in
your discipline, in order as it were to
curry favour with them, by which mea
the latter part of your time is emplo
in undoing what the first was accom
plishing and instead of having Men
always ready to take advantage of
Circumstances you must govern your
Movements by the Circumstances of

your

your Establishment — this is not all — by the time you have got Men raised & equipped — the difficulty of doing which is beyond description — and with every new set, you have the same trouble to encounter with out the means of doing it. — In short the disadvantages are so great, & appear to me, that I am convinced, as certain as the continuance of the War is, that the Congress had better determine to give a Bounty of 20, 30, or even 40 Dollars to every Man who will Enlist for the whole time, be it long or short — I intend to write my sentiments fully on this Subject to Congress the first leisure time I have. —

I am exceedingly sorry to hear that Arnolds Wound is in an unfavorable way — his Letter to me of the 14th Ult. says nothing of this. — I fancy Congress have given some particular direction respecting Sir P. Carr — I think they ought for more reasons than one. — I am sincerely & affectionately

Yr. Most Obed. Serv.

G. Washington

Please send the Inclosed Letter of Randolph to the Post Office.

To
Colo. Hazlehurst

1776 Fr 641.

Received at Washington
Cambridge
February 1st 1776

Cambridge. Feb. 10th 1776.

Dear Sir

Your obliging favours of the 28th Ult. & 1st Inst. are now before me, & claim my particular thanks for the polite attention you pay to my wishes, in an early, & regular communication of what is passing in your Quarter. —

If my dear Sir, you conceive that I took any thing wrong, or amiss, that was conveyed in any of your former Letters you are really mistaken — I only meant to convince you, that nothing would give me more real satisfaction than to know the sentiments which are entertained of me by the Publick, whether they be favourable, or otherwise — and, urged as a reason that the Man who wished to steer clear of Shelves & Rocks must know where they lay — I know — but to declare it, unless to a friend, may be a argument of vanity — the Integrety of my own Heart — I know the unhappy predicament I stand in. — I know what must be expected of me — I know that without Men, without Cloaths, without Ammunition, without any thing fit for the accomodation of a Soldier that little is to be done — and, which is mortifying; I know, that I cannot stand justified to the World without exposing my own weakness & injuring the cause

by

by declaring my wants, which I am determined not to do further than unavoidable necessity brings every Man acquainted with — under these disadvantages I am able to keep above Water (as it were) in the esteem of Mankind I shall feel myself happy, but, if from the unknown, peculiarity of my circumstances I suffer in the opinion of the World. I shall hope you think you take the freedom of a friend of a friend if you conceal the reflections that may be cast upon my conduct. — My own situation feels so irksome to me at times, that, if I did not consult the publick good more than my own tranquility I should long ere this have put every thing to the cast of a Die — so far from my having an Army of 20,000 Men well Armed &c. I have been here with less than one half of it, including sick, on long duty, command, and those hitherto armed or cloathed as they should be. — In short my situation has been such that I have been obliged to use art to conceal it from my own Officers.

The corps, as you observe, expect I believe, that I should do more than others, for which they compel me to enlist men without a bounty, they give 40/ to others; which with expect, puts hard on our Recruiting Officers, for withstanding all the publick virtue which is ascribed to these people, there is no nation under the Sun that I ever came across, pay greater adoration to money, than they do — I am plea to find, that your Battalion, are cloathed and keep well, and that they are going off for Canada — I wish I could say, that the troops here had altered much in Dress or appearance — Our Regiments are little more than half compleat & Recruiting nearly at a stand — In all my letters I fail not the mention of Ex & yet perceive that notice is taken of my applications

I have been convinced by General
Lee's conduct that he has neither been very ignorant
of our situation (which I do not believe)
or that he has received positive Orders (which
I think is natural to conclude) not to risk any
thing (the) hazard till his reinforcements arrive
otherwise there has been a time since the
1st of December that we must have beaten
the men to have maintained these lines, at
least in their extent — The Party to Burkes
Mill had some good & some bad Men escaped
the conduct of part of it — to be plain, these
people — among friends — are not to be de
pended upon if exposed. — and any Man with
Mill which if he thinks himself in no danger
I do not apply this to these People — Sup
pose it to be the case with all raw, ex
cuse Troops —

You may rely upon it, that I have
not left Boston six weeks ago with Troops.
where they are gone to unless it were to the
West Indies I know not — you may also rely
on Serjeant Winter. Sailing from Boston
about 3 weeks ago with about 1 Gunner
& hundred Men — his destination I am
not a stranger to. — I am sorry to hear of the
failure you speak of from Canada, but wish
it not expressly forward parts. The Troops
in your Province? There seems to work
in this as the reason for retreat, but ask
& furnish the means — but, I wish not blame
them — I dare say the demands upon them are
greater than they can supply — the cause must
be traced to our Counsels, are wanting, or
are certain within ourselves

With respect to myself, I have never
entertained an idea of an accommodation since I heard
the measures which were adopted in conse-
quence of the Bunker's Hill fight. — The King's
speech has confirmed the sentiments I enter-
tained upon the News of that affair — and, if
every Man was of my Mind the Ministers of
G.B. should know, in a few words, upon what
side the cause should be put. — I would not
be deceived by artful declarations, or specious
pretences — nor would I be amused by un-
meaning Representations — but in open, undis-
guised, and manly terms proclaim our wise
& our Resolutions, to be redressed. — I would tell
them, that we had been much — that we had
long, & orderly sought or reconciliation upon
honourable terms — that it had been denied
— that all our attempts after peace had been
grossly misrepresented — that we had done
every thing that could be expected from the
best of subjects — that the spirit of Freedom
beat too high in us, to submit to Slavery;
that, if nothing else would satisfie a Tyrant
& his diabolical Ministry, we were determi-
ned to shake off all connexions with a Nation
so unjust, & unnatural. — This I would tell
them, not under cover, but in words as clear
as the Sun in its Meridian brightness. —

I observe what you say, in respect to
the Ardour of the Chimney Corner Heros. — I
am glad their zeal is in some measure abe-
ted because if Circumstances, with our pe-
mit us to make an attempt upon B — or if
should be made and fail, we shall not appear
altogether so culpable — I entertain the same
opinion

opinion of the attempt now which I have ever
done. — I believe an assault will be attended
with considerable loss. — and I believe it will
succeed, if the men should be laid aside — with-
out it, unless there is equal bad behaviour
on the other side, we cannot — as to an attack
upon B-ston (unless it could be carried by sur-
prize) the loss, I conceive, would be great,
in proportion, and if a defeat should befall
would be discouraging to the men, but highly
animating if crowned with success. — great
good, or great evil, would consequently re-
sult from it. — it is quite a different thing
to what you left, being by odds the strongest
force they possess, both in men and zeal —

The Congress having ordered all
captures to be sent in the courts of Admiralty
of the different governments to which they
are sent — & some unnecessary difference
arising between the Resolves of Congress &
the Law of this Colony respecting the bro-
kerage, or something or another, which
always happens to procrastinate business
here has put a total stop to the prize, to
the no small injury of the publick as well as
great grievance of Individuals whenever a
condemnation shall take place I shall be
recommended to your advice respecting the
duty &c.

Would to Heaven the Plan you
speak of for attacking Arms may succeed
— the acquisition would be great and give gre-
at life & vigour to our measures, as would the
arrival you speak of, our expectations are
kept alive, and if we can keep our ships to

and spirits up another Summer I have no fears of wanting the Needful after that. —

As the number of our Enlisted Men were too small to undertake any offensive Operation if the Circumstances of Weather &c. should favour I ordered in by application to this Gen.l Connecticut, & New Hampshire as many Regiments of Militia as would serve us to attempt something, in some manner or other — they were to have been here the first of the Month, but only a few Regiments are yet come in. — The Bay from Roxbury has been freze up once or twice pretty hard, and yesterday, single Persons might have crossd. I believe Gremmitchmen hourly picking his way — a than. Gear is again approaching —

We have had the most laborious piece of work at Litchmore's point, on account of the Frost that ever you saw. — We hope to get it finished on Sunday. — It is within Commanding a Distance off Boston, as Dorchester Hill tho' off a different part. — Our Cruisers and they pick up a prize or two — our Modest Manner was very near being catch'd about 8 days ago but happily escaped with Repeated Brewsters running a Prize Scuttling, & defending her. — I see I forgot what else were to give you the Trouble of, which you can learn by reading a Letter and Poem addressed to Melly Mr. or Miss Phillis Wheatly — In searching over a parcel of Papers the other day, in order to destroy such as were useless, I ~~[illegible]~~ brought it to light

light again — at first, with a view of doing
justice to her great poetical genius, I had
a great mind to publish the Poem, but not knowing
whether it might not be considered rather
as a mark of my own vanity than as a com-
pliment to her, I laid it aside. this became a
repeat again in the manner just mentioned

I copy, indeed, upon your hint
although I consider it as the Coup-de-
grace to my expectation of ever seeing you
resident in this Camp again — I have only
regret the want of you, if that should be
the case, & I shall do it more deeply as I
have experienced the good effects of your
aid. — I am with Mrs Washington's compli-
ments to Mr Reed, & my best respects add

Dear Sir, Yr most obed. & obl. Serv.

G. W.

10 Feb.y 1776

General Washington
Cambridge February 10
1776

LETTER REMOVED FOR
LOAN TO THE MUSEUM
OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
JULY 2023

Cambridge 19th March 1776.

My dear Sir,

We have, at length, got the Ministerial Troops in this Quarter on ship board. — Our Lodgings were in Depth, as mentioned in my last, but they after that had gone [illegible] attack us into a most violent hurry to march, which was still further hastened on Sunday Morning by [illegible] on Duke's hill, [illegible] of the Town, the night before. — The whole Fleet is now [illegible] waiting for a favorable wind, ready to [illegible] blex; for which we shall endeavour to be prepared. —

The injury in which they have embark'd is inconceivable, they have not, from a computation, left [illegible] than 30,000 £ worth of his Majesty's Property behind them, in Provisions and stores, Beef, Pork, Blankets &c. — [illegible] are left spiked, which we are now doing a Number of [illegible] burdance — all their Artillery Carts, Powder Waggons, &c. which they have been 12 Months about are left with such

abuse

abase as their hurry would permit them
to leave; whilst others, after a little cutting
& hacking were thrown into the harbour o
new visiting every place — In short you ca
have no form an idea of the scene. — Gala
[illegible] are left with only a Master
Bonsport cutdown — some of them loaded.
their works abstanding. — upon examinat
of which, [illegible] Barriers Hil
we discovered [illegible] — [illegible] co
not have carried ~~them~~ it against one thous
had that [illegible] was defended. — Ere. Fort
St Boston was almost impregnable every
avenue fortified. —

I have already marched the Re
[illegible] and their Regiment for New
York — I cannot give more which [illegible]
[illegible] — [illegible] as fur
fairly [illegible] — I do not think expe
ditious, as I think do myself, as I suppose [illegible]
[illegible] be the object in view. — Write
you in much haste & the post cannot
add that I am

Dear Sir Your Most Obed

Sincerely with
respect — Your Obedt. Serv.

19 March 1776

To

Joseph Reed Esq.

Philadel.

Ephraim Blackburn
Baltimore 19. March
1776.

Cambridge 25th [illegible] 1776

Dear Sir,

[illegible]

[illegible] Governmet [illegible] do — [illegible]

[illegible] totally [illegible]

[illegible] bushel [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] town [illegible]

[illegible] there;

the [illegible] there say there

[illegible] the

[illegible]

Landing [illegible]

Cross [illegible]

and much disorder [illegible] this [illegible]

[illegible] entle [illegible]

of the Transport [illegible] have

yards Booms Bowsprits &c broke

[illegible] the line [illegible]

[illegible] the equinoctial

gale before [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible], that the [illegible]
[illegible] and I think a favourable opp[illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] Force [illegible]
[illegible] Frontier guard —
[illegible] Regiment [illegible]
[illegible] have no [illegible]
[illegible] and on Monday next, [illegible]
[illegible] which were brought [illegible]
[illegible] with the dirt of Spanish [illegible]
[illegible] — From former experience, [illegible]
[illegible] practicable [illegible]
[illegible] as the people here [illegible]
[illegible] time [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

opening caps [illegible]
make a rush upon our decks [illegible]
[illegible] land two miles [illegible]
and fish behind. — I am under no
apprehension from them next trip
over, and am taking every precaution
I can to guard against the rush; but
we have a kind of people to deal with
who rush headlong despite the bayonet, is at their breast, and they are
susceptible enough of fire. —

I am [illegible] with labor
for — demolishing the levee, on the back
there — as it is a defence against the
[illegible] and make such other
disposition as appears necessary
[illegible] levee — I can spare
no more [illegible] from Pennsylvania
[illegible] land and then I can raise
[illegible] in New York. —

[illegible] inclosed [illegible]
[illegible] on a [illegible] with
[illegible]

25 March 1776.

agreeable enough to me upon [illegible]
him qualified for the business — a [illegible]
kind of a hand he writes. I have no [illegible]
Skill in but a cramp one; latterly
have had, as he has taken the Fever
or Rheumatism in both — He is a Man
Lord of company — of gaiety — and [illegible]
[illegible] would answer my
purpose so much as a Plodding, Methodical Person, whose sole business [illegible]
would arrange his Papers &c. &c. [illegible]
would also produce an [illegible], at any
Rate I should be pleased to, [illegible]
[illegible] of composing a Letter, [illegible]
what you have received — I [illegible]
[illegible] you success in your [illegible]
[illegible]

P.S. I have enclosed [illegible]
[illegible] names [illegible]
[illegible]

Cambridge 28th March 1776.

Dear Sir;

General Howe has a grand Manoeuvre in view — or has made an excursion to Boston. Yesterday Evening the remains of the British Fleet left Nantasket Road — except an Armed Ship or two, which left the Coast quite clear of an Enemy — the Transports with certainty March for New York — two days hence another, — and a day or two after that our whole force, except about 3 or four Regiments, to erect such works as shall be adjudged necessary for the security of this place — I think in 10 days. ~~I shall be able to answer the matter~~ From this date I shall detain myself — in other words, the moment I can put things upon such a footing as the exigency of Affairs may require I shall depart.

I have received your favour of the 15th Inst but hurried as you may well suppose I be in sending express to one and another I pass this occasion I shall only add that I am with sincere regard and esteem

Your most obedt Servt.

To

Joseph Reed Esq

In

Philadelphia

1776. 28 March

George Washington
Cambridge
28 March 1776

Cambridge April 1st. 1776.

Dear Sir,

By the Express which I sent to Philadelphia a few days ago I wrote you a few hasty lines, — I have little time to do more now, as I am hurried in dispatching one Brigade after another for New York and preparing for my own departure, by pointing out the Duties of those that remain behind me. —

Nothing of Importance has occurr'd in these parts since my last — unless it be the Resignation of Generals Lees & Poye, and the Acceptance of the former, or retraction, or rather, as he says, of its being disagreeable to some of the Officers — who those Officers are I have not heard. — I have not enquired — when the application to Congress & notice of it to me, came to hand, I was disarm'd of Interposition because it was put upon the footing of Duty, or conscience, the General being persuaded, that his health would not allow him to take that share of Duty that his office required. — The Officers to whom the resignation is disagreeable have been able, no doubt, to convince him of his mistake and that his health will admit him to be active and active — shall leave him till I can determine Yea or

Nay

nay, to Command in this Quarter. — Yet
Eye that wonderful Man, has made a
more wonderful hard shift — this appoint-
ment took place the 11th. of Jan.y — we dis-
ed ten days ago, that his Commission
might take place the 11th. of April — He
has drawn Six hundred and Twenty
five Dollars — never done one days du-
— scarce been three times out of his
discovered that he was too old, and too
unfirm for a moving Camp — but seems
that he has been young, active
and very capable of doing what is
next out of his power to accomplish;
therefore has left Congress to find out
another Man capable of making, if possible a more
brilliant figure. — Add to these the
departure of Gen.ls Lee & Thomas — or
hinting some dislike of S——r and H—
and their German opinions of the M—
of this Army. — their Councils — &c.a —

Your letter of the 15th. ult.o con-
tained a very unfavourable acct. of the
in Virginia, but I am pleased to find by the
subsequent one of the 23d. that the pro-
pect brightens; and that Mr. Martin's
first attempt (through those universal
Instruments of Tyranny the Scotch) has
met with its deserved success — the old
proverb, of the first blow being half the
Battle cannot better apply than in these

Instances

Instances the Spirits of the vanquish'd being depressed in proportion as the Victors get elated. —

I am glad to find my Camp equipage in such forwardness. — I shall expect to meet it, and I hope you, at New York, for which place I am preparing to move on Thursday, or Friday next. — The Accts brought by Mr. Temple of the favourable disposition in the Ministry to accomodate matters, does not correspond with their Speeches in Parliament; nor therefore do I Lay any stress upon them. — If the Commissioners do not come over with full and ample powers to treat with Congress sincerely wish they may leave put their foot on American Ground, as it must be self evident (in the other case) that they come over with invidious Intentions to distract, divide & create as much confusion as possible. Then there can any Man, let his passion for reconciliation be never so strong, be so blinded, and misled, as to embrace a measure, evidently designd for Disunion? — No Man does — no Man can wish the restoration of Peace more fervently than I do; but I hope, whenever made, it will be upon such terms, as will reflect Honour upon the Council, and wisdom of America. — With you, I think a change in the American Representation necessary — frequent appeals to the People can be attended with no bad, but may have

very salutary effects. — My Countrymen, I know, from their form of Government, & steady attachment heretofore to Royalty, will come reluctantly into the Idea of Independancy; but time, & persecution brings men, wonderfully to reason. — by private letters which I have lately received from Virginia, I find common sense is working a powerful change there in the Minds of many Men. —

The 4000 Men destined for Boston on the 5th if the Ministerialists had attempted our Works on Dorchester or Roxbury, were to have been headed by old Put. — But he would have had pretty easy work of it, as the Motions were to have been regulated by signal, and those signals from appearances — He was also to have made the attempt unless the Fear had been drawn off — or very considerably weakened of its force.

I believe I mentioned in my last to you, that all those who took up Arms — the Style & Title (in Boston) of Government's Men, have skipped themselves off in the same hurry, but under greater disadvantages than the Tories. (I think it Idle to keep up the distinction of Ministerial, Tory, Loyalist, very obliged in a manner, to man their cause Pepel; Leaves not being to be had for the Tories, Traitors; and submit to all the hardships that may be received —

Op

— One or two of them have committed, what it would have been happy for mankind if more of them had done long ago — the act of suicide — By an act, a more miserable set of Beings does not exist than these — I might be believe that the power of Boston was almost omnipotent, and that it was that French and Indian band, they were hippen, and mere insulting in their opposition, that the Troops — themselves — which the Order should therefore for embarking the Troops in Boston, no electric shock — no sudden flash of lightning — in a word, not even the last Trump, could have struck them with greater terror — they were all thrown into wild, and conscious of their black ingratitude, chose to commit themselves in the manner before described to the mercy of the winds and waves, in a leaky shallop, rather than meet their offended Countrymen; and with this declaration I am told they have done it — that if they could have thought, that the most abject submission, would have procured peace and safety, they would have humbled themselves in the dust, & supplicated God & Man to blot out their [illegible] — and if [illegible] for Murderers! — Rebellious Traitors! — would it not be good policy to grant a general Amnesty? & conquer these People by a generous forgiveness? — I am with the most respectful compliments, joined with my

over to Mr. Reed - Dear Sir

Your Sincere & Affect. friend &
Serv.t
C. Hutchinson Jr.

P.S. I have this instant
received an Express from
Mr. Cooke informing me
that a Man of War is just arrived
in the Harbour at New Port, and that 27 Sail of
Vessels (supposed to be part of the Fleet from Boston)
are within Secret point. — I have ordered
Genl. Sullivans Brigade wch. marched from here
on Friday afternoon to file off immediately for
Providence & Genl. Spears which was to begin
his March the day to repair immediately to
that place.

New York April 15th 1776

My dear Sir

Your favour of the [illegible] came safe into my hands — [illegible] acknowledge, the receipt of it by this Post, and to thank you for your [illegible] and attention [illegible] ordering [illegible] compass — whatever the list you sent, may fall short of your Intention of Providing, can be got [illegible] [illegible] depend upon [illegible] [illegible]

I am exceedingly concerned to hear of the divisions & Parties which prevail with you, and in the Southern Colonies on the score of Independance &c. — these are the Shelves we have to avoid, or our Bark will split & tumble to pieces — here lays our great danger, and I almost tremble when I think of this Rock — nothing but a desunion can hurt our cause — this is Much

of

[illegible] great [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] made the governing principle of the
[illegible] conduct. —

[illegible] my good [illegible] with great de-
[illegible] me? — I dear Sir [illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible] government,
I do wish for your [illegible] and
advice to manage it. — I have not [illegible]
[illegible] with great
[illegible]

Mr. Washington
Dear Sir
Mt Vernon

Yours
G. Washington

Mr. Washington
Dear Sir
I have received
your letter of the 22d of
Nov. last in which you
[illegible]

New York. 23d. April 1776.

My dear Sir,

I have been favoured with several of your Letters since I came to this place, some of them indeed after getting pretty well advanced on the Road towards Boston — My extreme hurry, with one kind of business and engagement on another, leaves me little more than time to express my concern for your Indisposition, and the interposition of other obstacles to prevent me from receiving that aid from you which I have been wishing for & hourly expecting —

Your Letter of the 18th. descriptive of the Jealousies and unkind reflections which exist among the Members of Congress is really alarming — if the Dome is divided, the fabrick must fall, and a few Individuals perish in the Ruins. — For the occurrences of this place I shall beg leave to refer you to Mr. Pacque, who at the particular request of Mr. Hancock comes to Philadelphia —

The sooner my Camp Equipage is sent to this place the better, that it may be ready for any Service I may be sent, or find necessary to go upon — If you could hire Horses to bring the wagon &c. to this place and could conveniently & readily get those two you bought I would not wish

with

wish it as the use for them is uncertain
and the expence of hiring them prove
very being both scarce and dear) great —
to which may be added that I have not th
same occasion now as when I first req
them, having taken four of the Boop Ho
[illegible] answer the purpose exceedin
well from Cambridge [illegible] to fill out my
Baggage Waggons [illegible] meanwhile
by what I have said that you should
hold the Horses if you cannot im
mediately occasion a dispose of them with

Inclosed is a letter to Mr. Darcoc
for payment for [illegible] I am with
sincere esteem and regard
Dear Sir Your most respect. & obe
Servt
Chas Pettipron

23 October 1776

General Washington
New York
23 October 1776.

Camp above Fort Tak.
23d December 1776.

No. 16

[illegible] to
know whether any, has was attempted last
night — and if not, to inform you that Chin
was done at Fort, one hour before day, is
the time fixed upon for our attempt to
[illegible]

[illegible] the 3d line
of the regiment, might seek a more
well above. Command until Colonel
[illegible]

22
2

23 D. 1746
N°4

Fig. 8

Dear Sir: Head Qrs. Morristown 18th Jan. 1777

Yours of the eleventh is come to hand
if the account the prisoners give be true
it is a very agreeable & important one
the order you sent to Colonel Winds has
interfered with a Plan, concerted by Generals
Sullivan & Maxwell. Whenever you have
occasion to order a Movement of any part
of the Army, it will be best to apply
to the Commanding Officer, lest it may,
as it has in the present instance, interfere
with some other objects, I wish you had
brought Cunhowe off with you, for from his
noted Character, there is no dependance to be
placed upon his Parole; nothing new here
but the arrivall of Genl. Stevens with the

baggage of the Army, Genl. Putnam is or soon will be at Princeton, Heath is moveing towards Kingsbridge, a Detachment from that quarter are at Ramapo, I am

Dear Sir

Your affte. H.S.

G. Washington

Colonel Reed

12 Jan. 1777

Governor Morris, Esqr.

Head Quarters 1st. July 1777

Morris Town Jan.y 14. 1777.

Dear Sir,

I very much approve of your writing Genl. Putnam, as I can not acc.t for his remaining at Crosswicks instead of removing to Princeton, as I have desired in several of my Letters. —

I would have him keep neither at Princeton (except two or three days provisions) but what can be moved off at an hours warning — in that case, good Scouting Parties are kept constantly out, no possible damage can happen to the Troops under his Command; who are to retreat, in case they are compelled to leave Princeton, towards the Mountains, so as to form a junction with the Army under my immediate Command. — This will serve as a direction to him in removg. the Stores if any yet remain at Princeton

I would have no time lost in drawing the Flour from the Mills on Millstone, lest the Enemy should attempt, & avail themselves of it. — I would also have Genl. Putnam draw his Forage as much as possible from the District of Brunswick, that the Enemy may be disappointed ~~[illegible]~~ — the Inhabitants of that district should be compelled to bring it in. —

The two Companies under the Command of Col.o Durkee, aided by the Militia in that Quarter should be constantly harrassing the Enemy about

Bound Brook and the West side of Brunswick Point, I mean! — I have directed Gen. Sullivan to do the like on the east next him. —

Particular attention should be paid to the Surgeon sent by Lord Cornwallis for my consent to his being — [illegible] — He will, more than probably, convince you of your numbers which ought to be a good deal magnified at Princeton, and give other useful knowledge of your situation — If therefore, the wounded are in a condition to remove, would it not be best to send them to Brunswick with the Surgeon? — Many of them, or their attendants, have seen considerable property, were it done so to no, gen. an equal number to be demanded in lieu. —

I have enclosed Gen.l Howe a copy of Mr. Pater's declaration, and have remonstrated strongly on the treatment of our Prisoners. What have you done with the Hessians you apprehended? — The Waggon with the Ammunition, and Indian Coats, I am obliged to you for taking care of — It is not yet arrived — In what manner did Col.l Quick's Militia leave the Rangers? — Stirling? — Maxwell? — For, they ought to be furnished, or shall

I recollect my approving of the Waylaying of the Roads between Bru-

[illegible] and Amboy. — I must beg the favor of Colo. Cox, in your absence, to continue the surveillance [illegible] lines — would it not be well for the Militia under Colo. Mitchell to unite with the Rangers for the purpose of keeping out [illegible] in any [illegible] manner as are mentioned? — I ask for information, as I would not wish a man to stir beyond their lines, nor suffer him to have the least intercourse with the enemy.

I am &c &c

Fred. Frelinghuysen

G. Washington

General Washington
Morris Town
January 14th 1777

Morris Town Jan: 15th 1777

Dear Sir

[illegible] by the Express who brought me your
last Letter — Became in the Evening of the 13.

[illegible]

Many days ago I wrote
[illegible]
to have the Stores rescued from the hands
of the Militia who had borne them off, and
had no doubt but he had done it. — What
is the name of [illegible] man he can be doing at
Cropswick I know not, altho' my Soul
wishes to hear of him at Princeton. — Surely
he is the very [illegible] — In that case desire
him from me, to use every [illegible] means
to recover the Stores, and bring the [illegible]
[illegible] especially Col. Cramton to
whom I have wrote on this subject.

I will speak to the Quarter Master
Genl. for a Person to be sent on this busi-
ness [illegible] from what I heard
him say yesterday, that he has no one
to spare, yet seems able to carry on his
business here [illegible] of Riddick
Hughes who [illegible] absent Sick

If the Militia cannot be prevailed
upon to restrain the Foraging
Party and [illegible] the Enemy in their
excursion, perhaps they will be
of very little [illegible]
[illegible]

When you see Genl. Mercer be so good
as to present my best wishes to him & con-
gratulations (if the state of his health will
admit of it) on his recovery from death.
You may allude to his illness, but the
confident assertion to be that he was not
dead, as stated in a communication of Lieut. Gen.
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Gen. Washington
[illegible]

Gen. Washington
Gen. Mercer
Alexandria

Newport. Feb. 9. 28

Sir

Your letters of the 13th and 18th Inst. are both to hand — the last in date arrived first, — the first this Morning only — I am sorry, upon the footing you have put it, and under the apprehension you seem to be, that I did not accept your commission at first, and under your offered it, the you were not at liberty, [illegible] at that time, I mentioned in Sep. Orders, that you having resigned, Col. Meador was appointed Regt. com; you having the Com. in preference, there was no argument against your reputation — but I am willing to receive it at any time. —

I am very relative solicitous by Gen. Conway on the Second one I be found. — I have lately wrote to Gen. Gates on the subject [illegible] I. — I would by no means wish you to come up merely on that acc., especially [illegible] — If they should listen to my wishes in the appointment — of a separate Quarter Master is necessary for the Horse — Col. Cosa seems to accept it, I can have no possible objection to it, but hence far the Rank of Col. can be annexed to the Office I cannot undertake to say — I wd. wish to think of it a little. —

I believe all the Prisoners from the Eastern States are now gone — that they did not do it long enough by Consent. [illegible] had been satisfied of it when he was [illegible] — what method I could devise to [illegible] except in a current [illegible] — which [illegible] money that could [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I am not a little surprised [illegible] — before [illegible] the [illegible] Regiment, & the remuneration of his own Officers — this he refused — since that he has been offered the Lieutenancy of a Regiment of Horse, [illegible] which are higher than that of a Regiment, which he was offered before I was vested with Full Powers. The Troops are alone competent to the gratification of their [illegible] I have no authority to go beyond what I have already offered him. —

If you should have the Command of the Horse, it will be quite agreeable to me that you should have one of those that was bought at Boston — you have not, as they are not Government property by Capitulation & Congress have already disposed of them, I could not with propriety consent to it; as I mean, in chusing a couple, or three for my use, to throw the rest into some of the Troops, or let them go among the Officers.

I wish your leisure would permit you to dispose a proper plan

the prevention of desertion or apprehending of Deserters that would have a general operation throughout all the United States. — I have, on gen.l terms recommended to Congress & to all the States individually the absolute necessity of adopting some effectual measures to accomplish the latter, but each with, unless some method can be adopted by, or recommended from Congress, or the Commander of the Army, have some new Jangled, or inadequate schemes of their own. — In like manner, if you can give any assistance to General Miffin on an arrangem.t of Wagons I shall be glad of it. — one Hickers, a Gent.n on or near Shenandoah in Fred.k County Virginia has offered to run a number. — I am a person well acquainted in this business, and may be depended on

I think the Congress ought not, under the present appearance of things by any means to return to Philadelphia — I think we are now in one of the most critical periods w.ch America ever saw, & because the Enemy are not in actual motion but I believe they are not a day, or two, I every hod, almost seems to be called into ease and Security. —

Would Col.o Cox accept the appointment of Com.y of Prisoners? — if he would, I wish to God he would express it to me immediately — I want a shrewd sensible Man exceedingly for this business & obtaining Intelligence which appears very certain

pendent

pendent. — Let me hear from you on
this point as much as possible — the
Pay Dept. I presume is equal to that of
Colonel. — Yours &c.

G. G. Mead Colonel
To
Gen. Hartranft
Chicago Ills

Spencer Kellogg Cochran
Montclair
May 23 1877

Head Qrs. Middle Brook May 29th 1777

Dear Sir

Congress having authorized me to a Table Established this morning to assign One of the Generals already appointed to the command of the right Wing I mean that you should act in that line, it lays with myself, and with you in such case, to obtain a Commission, as soon as you can.

I am Dear Sir
with great esteem
Your most Obed. Servt.
G Washington

1777
May 29.

General Washington
Head Quarters
Middle Brook
May 29th 1777

Respecting the Command
of Cavalry.

Gn. 4. B. 1

Camp at Middlebrook
June 11th 1777.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 4th was given to me by Mr. Arrowsmith just as Mr. Peters informd me he was about to set out for Phila. — I could not resist the Inclination he gave of detaining him long enough to write you a short letter to thank you, as I do most sincerely, for the friendly and affectionate sentiments contained in yours of the above date towards me, and to assure you that I am perfectly convinced of the sincerity of them — Truth is, I felt myself hurt by your last letter, which appeard at that time to be the echo of one from you — I was hurt, not because I thought my judgment wrongd by the expression contained in it, but because the sentiments were so unkind & immediately to myself — the favorable manner in which your opinion, upon all occasions, has been received — the Importance they made — and the unreserved manner in which I wished, & required them to be given, entitled

tilled me, I thought, to your advice upon any point in which appeared to be wanting — to meet with any thing then, that came with it a complexion of without that advice from me, and certainly my Conduct to another was used as an argument of disapprobation that I was not a little mortified at it. — However I am perfectly satisfied that matters were not as they appeared from the letter alluded to. —

Sincerely wish that you may accept the appointment of Corpl, and the Post I am desirous of placing you in and must hope to be favoured with an answer immediately upon the subject as the Service will not admit of delay — Genl Officer in that Department seems to take of a great deal of trouble upon me, but in a mean of bringing those Regiments into order & service with much more facility than it is in my power divided as my attention is, can possibly do. —

Mr Peter, writing per mail to accelerate and to with great truth & esteem

Yr Obed Hble Servt

Tilghman

Head Qrs. Dec. 8th 1777

Dear Sir,

If you can with any convenience let me see you to day I shall be thankful for it — I am at a loss fixing the winter cantonments of this army, and find so many, & such capital objections to some of those proposed, that I am exceedingly embarrassed, not only by the advice given me, but in my own judgment, and should be very glad of your sentiments on the matter without loss of time. — In hopes of seeing you, I shall only add, that from Reading to Lancaster Inclusive is the general sentiment, which Wilmington and its vicinity has powerful advocates. — This however is mentioned under the rose — for I am convinced in my own opinion, that if the enemy believed we had this place in contemplation they would prepare themselves against it immediately. — I am very sincerely

Dear Sir Yr. affect.

G. Washington

Valley-forge June 15th 1778.

I thank you very much for your friendly favor of this date, and your polite attention in submitting the draught of your Letter to Gov. Johnston to my perusal — I return it again, but before you transcribe a fair copy I would wish to see you upon the subject of it. — perhaps there are some parts of it which might receive a small alteration — In the present situation of things a correspondence of this nature must, and will be weighed and scanned with a scrupulous exactness; and even compliment, if carried far, may not pass entirely uncensured. —

There is another consideration with me — Congress perhaps, at this instant are deliberating on an answer to give the Commissioners to an address they have received from them. should a Letter therefore from a member (in which light you will be considered) hold out sentiments different from theirs, an unfavourable use will doubtless be made of it. — I am D. Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

G. Washington

1778 [illegible] 15.

Gen. Washington
to
Gen. Reed

In reply to Mr. Reed's letter to Col. Shaw

General Reed —

at

Maj. Henry's.

Fredericksburg in the State
of New York Nov 27-78

Dear Sir

I am upon the eve of my departure for Winter Quarters, but think it my duty to present you with an acknowledge, and thank you for your obliging favor of the 25th Inst.

Unless the Officer who commanded a detachment of Drapoers of Baylies Regiment was directed by Mr. Caldwell to take, I am necessarily guilty of an unpardonable piece of impertinence, but disobedience of Orders; for he was instructed to collect the scattered remains of that Regiment and repair with them, to such place (out of the common route of the Wagons) as the Q. M. should direct — I have ordered an enquiry into his conduct on this occasion. —

This I most devoutly do believe wished there some happy expedient

could

could be hit upon to restore credit
to our paper emission, and pun
the infamous practice of forestalling
— and the exposing such articles
as are essentially necessary to the ve
existance of the army — and which
by their practice, comes to it thro
the hands of these people at 50 p
advance, to the great injury and
depreciation of our money, by acc
mulating the quantum, necessary
for ordinary [illegible] rises to an enor
mous sum, which must end in a
total stagnation of all purchases,
unless some remedy can be seen, an
effectually applied

5 This comment deservedly
applied to [illegible] was also an
and that those to whom we are [illegible]
dear & valuable [illegible] to
[illegible] & acts [illegible] to
[illegible] principle. — [illegible]
[illegible] Country if such was
[illegible]

the government [illegible] — [illegible] we are all [illegible] that the [illegible] be [illegible] with [illegible] — That great & good being who rules the U. [illegible] has disclosed many [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] —

As my letter to [illegible] has carried a [illegible] of Cantonment of the Troops, & other matters of public concern I have no need to repeat them to you as an individual member. — The conduct of the Enemy at New York & Rhode Island is too misterious to be accounted for by any Rule of common sense — The Transports certain in their second Embarkation still remain in the harbour — for what purpose it is not easy to conjecture

I shall hope, when the Army gets a little settled in Winter Quarters that the Commde. of Arrangement will perfect the good work they began in

the

the Summer, and draw order from the Chaos we have been in for a long time past. —

It is eleven o'clock at Night and I am to set out early in the Morning, for which reason I shall only add my thanks for the favorable sentiments you are pleased to entertain for, and have expressed of me. — But in a more especial manner, for your good wishes & prayers. — With sincere regard and affection — & with compliments to Mrs. Reed

I am &c.

Gen. Washington

Gen. Washington
Fredericksburgh
November 24th 1778
Fredericksburgh New York

8 dl 6 cts
Gen. Washington

Middlebrook Dec.r 12th 1778.

Dear Sir,

[illegible] Inst.
by Mr. Laurens came to my hands a day
or two ago; previous to which, I should
have done myself the pleasure of
congratulating you, which I now do
on your (recent) or your late election
to the government of Pensylvania, had
not Sir Parry's late extra measures
up the North River kept me upon the
March, & consequently, from that time
yesterday, when I arrived at these my
quarters for the winter — employed too
much of my attention to investigate his
designs; to indulge in more agreeable
amusements. —

What did, or could prompt the
Knight to this expedition, is beyond the
reach of my conception — considering the
unseasonableness of it — three things only,
appeared to me probable; — a rescue of
the Convention Troops — a stroke at the
rear of our army. — or a surprize of the
Posts in the high-lands. — The two first I
had seen perfectly out of his reach before
I left the North River; and not conceiving
that he could [illegible] much in point of
intelligence

intelligence as to his time matters so
exquisitely (if either of the other two
was his object) it followed of consequence
that the last must be his aim, and that
I had left them (as I thought) in a state of
security, and in the hands of a good pilot
— Mr Dougall — I could not help fearing
yesterday lest some disaster might befall them,
posted back from Elizabeth town on the
morning of the 5th and got within 12 or 15
miles of Perth Amboy where I was met by
an express informing me that the French
had arrived at that place, had burnt the
two small Dutch Houses, destroyed nine
Barrels of spoiled herrings, & had sets sail
for New York. —

Thus ended this notable expedition
which was conducted in the preparation
with so much secrecy, that all the Flat
Boats to, and from the City were stopped
and not a mouse permitted to creep out
of their holes. — The only bad consequence
we have felt from it, is the weather
has turned out, not as fine as it, the
it has delayed the Virginia, Maryland
& Pennsylvania troops four days in their
and has occasioned them to March thro
dirt & bad roads to come at them, we
instead of hoping & good ones, which
was the case before yesterday & Thursday

It gives many sincere pleasure
to find that there is likely to be a coalition

of the Whigs in your State (a few only excepted) and that the Assembly of it, are so well disposed to second your endeavors in bringing these marauders of our cause — the Monopolizers — Forestallers — & Engrossers — to condign punishment. — It is much to be lamented that each State, long ere this, has not hunted them down as the pests of society, & the greatest enemies we have, to the rights of man. — I would so wish that one of the most atrocious in each State was hung in Gibbets, upon a gallows five times as high as those prepared by Haman — for punishment, in my opinion, is too good for them, who can build "his greatness upon his country's ruin" —

General Lee's publication in Dunlap's Gazette of the 3d Inst. (and I have seen no other) puts me in a disagreeable situation — I have neither leisure nor inclination to enter the lists with him in a News-paper — and so far as his production exists in personality, scan, & reproach, cannot but despise; but when he has misstated facts, misrepresented facts in some places, and thrown out insinuations in others, that have not the smallest foundation in truth — not to attempt a refutation is a most acknowledgment of the justice of his assertions — for tho' there are thousands who know him unsupported

his

his piece is, there are yet tens of thous
that know nothing of the matter and
be led, naturally to conclude, that bo
confident assertions uncontradicted
must be founded in truth. —

Because a part of General
Lee's plan from the moment of his arre
(tho' it was an event solicited by himself
to have the world believe that he was a
persecuted man; and that party was a
the bottom of it; But however conveni
it may have been for his purposes to
establish this doctrine, I defy him, o
his most zealous partizans, to adduce
a single instance in proof of it; unless
he supposes to build on his own request
is considered in this light — I can do me
— I will defy any person out of my own fa
ly, to say that I have ever ment
ned his name after his trial commenced
if it was to be avoided; & when it was ne
y. I have yet studiously declined express
any sentiment of him, or his behaviour
— her for this conduct accords with he
let his own breast decide. — If he conceive
that I was opposed to him because he
found himself disposed to enter into
hrity against me — If he thought I sto
in his road to preferment, and therefo
that it was convenient to lessen me in
the esteem of my countrymen, in order to
pave the way for his own advancement —
have only to observe, that, as I never ex
tained any jealousy of, or apprehension

fro

from him, so neither did I even do more than common civility, and a proper respect to his Rank required, to conciliate his good opinion — His temper, and plans, were too versatile & violent to attract my admiration — and that I have escaped the venom of his tongue & pen so long, is more to be wondered at, than applauded; as it is a favor that no Officer under whose immediate command he ever served, has the happiness (if happiness can be thus denominated) of boasting

Were I to give into private convenience & amusement, I should not be able to resist the invitation of my friends to make Phila. instead of a squeezed up Town or two, my quarters for the Winter. — But the affairs of the army requires a constant attention, & presence — and circumstanced as matters are at this juncture, calls for some degree of care & address to keep it from crumbling — as Peace and retirement are my ultimate aim, & the most pleasing, & fitting wish of my Soul, every thing advancing of this end, contributes to my satisfaction, however difficult & inconvenient in the attainment — and where can I find any place, such circumstances, to my feelings, whilst I remain in service ...

The Officers of the Army must be grateful for your endeavours to serve them; and those of your own State I trust, feel the salutary effects of your exertions in their favor. — They really merit it — and designations must cease to be wonderful, when it is a fact too notorious to be denied, that Officers cannot live in the Army under present circumstances, whilst they see others enriching themselves by an infinity of ways. — These are severe tests of public virtue, & should not, in point of policy, be pushed too far. —

With sincere regard & affectionate compliments to Mrs. Reed,

I am D.r Sir

Y.r most obed.t friend &

Serv.t

G. Washington

Head Quarters 3.d March – 79.

Sir.

The President of Congress has transmitted me the instructions of the Assembly of your state to their delegates, founded on a representation of the distresses of your western frontiers – and farther the opinion of a Committee of the house on the subject of their defence – together with the two Resolves made in consequence.

I am therefore to inform your Excellency that offensive operations against the hostile tribes of Indians have been meditated and determined upon – that preparations have some time since been making for that purpose – and will be carried into execution at a proper time if no unexpected event takes place, and the situation of affairs on the Sea-board will justify the undertaking – But the

profoundest secrecy was judged necessary to the success of such an enterprise for the following reasons— That immediately upon the discovery of our design, the Savages would either put themselves in condition to make head against us, by a reunion of all their force and that of their allies, strengthened besides by succours from Canada— or elude the expedition altogether— which might be done at the expence only of a temporary evacuation of posts which we could not possess— and the destruction of a few settlements which they might speedily reestablish—

Tho' this matter is left under the veil of secrecy than was originally intended— Your Excellency will see the propriety of using such precautions as still remain in our power— to prevent its being divulgated— and of covering such

preparations as might tend to announce it — with the most specious disguise — that the enemys attention may not be awakened to our real object.

With respect to the force to be employed on this occasion — it is scarcely necessary to observe that the detaching a considerable number of continental troops on such a remote expedition — would too much expose the Country adjacent to the body of the enemy's Army.

There must therefore be efficacious assistance derived from the States whose frontiers are obnoxious to the inroads of the barbarians — and for this I intended at a proper time to make application — Your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint me what force yours in particular can furnish — in addition to the five Companies voted by Congress — and when you think those

Companies or the major part of them will probably be raised — What proportion of the levies of your State might be drawn from those inhabitants who have been driven from the frontier and what previous measures can be taken to engage them without giving an alarm — This class of people besides the advantages of knowlege of the Country and the particular motives with which they will be animated — are most likely to furnish the troops best calculated for this service — which should be Corps of active Rangers, who are at the same time expert marksmen and accustomed to the irregular kind of wood fighting practiced by the Indians. Men of this description consider under proper officers would be infinitely preferable to a superior number of

Militia unacquainted with this species of war - and who would exhaust the magazines of Amunition and Provision - without rendering any effectual service -

It will be a very necessary attention to avoid the danger of short inlistments. The service should be limited only by the expedition, or a term amply competent to it - otherwise we shall be exposed to the evident ill-consequences of having the men engagements expire at an interesting, perhaps a critical juncture -

I have the honor to be with great respect -

Sir

[illegible]

[illegible]

His Excellency President Reed

1779

Ye Cheatingtons.

General Washington
Head Quarters
3d March 1779

Middletown, Mar: 28
1779.

Dear Sir,

The enemy have some enterprize in view — New London, acc^t of the Frigates in the River, and because Boats have been preparing at the East end of Long Island, and Troops for sometime past drawing thitherward, is supposed to be the object. — Probably it is so — but as the season is now approaching when either Depopulation, or vigorous exertions must take place, and General Clinton doubtless will, in the latter case, and in pursuance of the predatory Plan talked of by the Minority, & not disavowed by Administration, attempt some thing that will give eclat to his arms — I should not be much surprized if some vigorous efforts were used against Annapolis, Baltimore or even Phil^a itself. — I do not mean with a view to hold either of these

places

Places but to plunder or destroy them
— General Clinton (under pretence
of visiting the Troops) is now at the
East end of Long Island with Sir Wm.
Erskine — Admiral Gambier is gone
to Rhode Island — and one of my
most intelligent correspondents in
forms me, it is surmised that the
Troops at that place are to be with
drawn — Transports with Provisi
ons have gone from New York to Ran
Rhode Island — and a number of
Privateers have been detained
from their Cruises & sent along with
them — Upon the whole, I cannot
help suspecting that the preparat
ions have been too long making — too
formidable — & too open for any
enterprize against New London, for
which place the fears of the people
are up; and as we cannot tell
before it may be, we should, as far
as human prudence, & the means
in our hands will enable us, be
guarded at all points — The sole
purpose therefore of this letter is to
suggest to your consideration the
expediency

expediency of adopting, in time, some general plan without taking notice of the present suggestion, thereby creating, probably, unnecessary dangerous alarm to the Militia of the Country, and for fixing places of rendezvous for them, that in case of sudden emergency they may be quickly assembled for the immediate or disorder; for be assured if any thing is attempted against the City of Phil.a the preparations for it will be laid under the darkest veil — and the movement, after the plan is ripe for execution, will be rapid. —

As my motive to this suggestion is good I trust other no apology for the freedom, but assure you that I am with greatest respect

D.r Sir

Y.r Mos. Obed.t Ser.t

Geo. Ashmead

His Excell.y

Jos.h Reed Esq.r Presid.t

Gen. Washington
Mar. 28 1779

General Washington
Middle Brook
March 28th 1779

Middle brook Mar 29th
1779.

Dear Sir

Since mine of yesterday, I have received the inclosed extract of a Letter from General Maxwell at Elizabeth Town; which I send least the surprise expressed in my letter should have made a deeper impression than intended; a circumstance which might result from a systematical plan of assembling the Militia at certain points, on any sudden exigency, with more expedition & less expence than it would be effected in the ordinary course

of

of precedent — such a measure would, I am certain, be objected to in the point of view, but her daughter is planned without giving an alarm to our friends and setting the numerous tribe of speculators & stock jobbers to work, you can judge better of that I.

I am with great esteem and regard. Dear Sir

Your most obed. hble

C. Wathen

Hon. Excell. Jos. Reed Esq

Presid.

Penn.

1779 March 29.

Proposal for Redeeming Mr. Eu
Abiah Crane
March 29. 1779

Middle brook april 8th 1779

Dear Sir;

Your favor without a date, acknowledging the receipt of my letters of the 28th & 29th ult.o came to hand a day or two ago. —

Col.o Patterson (as he is called) was a stranger even in name to me, till he came here introduced by Col.o Cox as a person capable of giving the best information of the Indian Country between the Susquehannah and Niagara of any man that was to be met with; and as one who had it more in his power than any other to obtain such intelligence of the situation, numbers, and designs of the enemy in those regions as I wanted, to enable me to form the Expedition against them. — In this light, & as the Bro.r in law of Genl Potter, who is known to be a zealous friend to America, I received & imployed Col.o Patterson for the above purposes, concealing as much as the nature of the case would admit my real design. — If I have been deceived in the man Col.o Cox is the author of the deceptio

on

Gen. Washington
Apr. 8. 1779
Middle Brook

on and is highly culpable, because he represented him to me as a person he was well acquainted with.—

The Troops from Minisink were to begin their March for Wyoming last Monday — The bad weather at the Month of March, and an accident to one of my Letters to Genl. Hand occasioned a delay of some days. — Orders also went (before the receipt of your Letter) to Genl. McDougall to put the remain of Patten & Malcolms Regiments in motion for the same quarter — and the Board of War sometime since has been applied to for a relief to Rawlings's Corps that it might reinforce Brod-Head for the purpose mentioned to you whereat I hope. but what they have done in the matter is unknown to me — I shall be very glad to know from time to time what progress is made in compleating the five independant Companies; and let me beseech you my dear Sir as I am upon the subject of recruiting to give the most positive orders to those who are engaged in this service, for your Battalions, to take no Deserters. — They weaken instead of strengthen the Regiments, & serve only rob the public of the bounty

money

money, arms, accoutrements and cloaths which they receive, but join the ranks of other soldiers and carry many away with them to the enemy — In Genl. Potters letter (now returned) the propriety of offering land, as an encouragement to men to enlist in the above Companies, is suggested for your consideration —

I have been of opinion, founded in observation that if the State bounties are continually encreased for every short, & temporary service & enlistment, that the price of men another year will be far above our powers to give, & finally end with be but to recruiting — the consequences of which, under present appearances, are well worthy of consideration

To hear that all party rivalry & hatred had subsided, & that harmony (not only between Congress & the States, but between the discordant parts of the State) was restored, would give me very singular pleasure — If party matters were at an end, & some happy expedient hit upon to check the further depreciation of our money, we might be soon to feel the enjoyment of that Peace and happiness which every good Man

must

must rise for, & not let the vicious & abandoned tribe of Speculators &c. would be injured by. —

If propositions have not been made to express by the Court of G. Britain for negotiating a Peace on the terms which have been laid down to the Commissioners upon what ground is the resolutions you speak of founded? — They surely do not mean to be the means of a negotiation, before they know the terms that will be offered, or which can certainly be obtained? — In a word the whole matter to me, is a mistery. —

I am with sincerity & truth

Dear Sir

Your most Obed. &c

Geo. Washington

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I have spoke to Genl. Green concerning Patterson — He says that he is not, nor was not acquainted with the suspicions have been of him — that in the early part of the war he got disgusted by some disappointment — withdrew from Public service & has conducted himself in such a manner as to be suspected of favoring the back settlers who have joined the Enemy — but nevertheless he will answer for his fidility & the dispatch of what he has undertaken if impediments are not thrown in his way. —

I have acct. of the marching of Patterson & Malcolms Regiments. — & that the Troops from Minisink will be at Trenton this night if no accident happens to them.

Yrs. &c. — G W —

Head Quarters Middle Brook 19th April
1779

Dear Sir

I have been honored with yours of the 14th inst. I shall not fail to recommend to the Officer, who will command upon the Susquehanna, the establishment of a good understanding between the Settlers at Wyoming and the inhabitants of Northumberland County.

Upon estimating the force necessary to be employed upon the intended Expedition, so as to give the most probable assurance of success, I find that it will require more troops than possibly be spared from the Continental Army, without weakening our main body to that degree that it will be ever liable to be insulted, if not materially injured by the Enemy, should they come out — I am therefore under the necessity of making application to the State of Pennsylvania for the Aid of six hundred Militia including the Companies of Rangers, to continue in Service three Months from the 1st of June, if the Laws or any power vested in the Executive Council will authorize the calling them out for so long

long a time. They must come provided with Arms as from the exhausted State of the Continent Magazines they cannot be supplied from thence. You will oblige me by letting me know as early as possible whether this demand can be complied with fully or, for what term of Service, and if not, for the longest time that the Men may be depended upon. They are to rendezvous at Sunbury by the 10th of May. I imagine the Western Militia will be called out upon this Service. They are infinitely to be preferred on many accounts, but particularly from their being used to the Indian mode of War, which is apt to make very fatal impressions on other men not acquainted with that kind of Enemy.

I would not presume to nominate the Officer who should take the command of this Body of Men: but I hope I shall stand excused, when I mention Brig: General Potter. From my knowledge of his abilities, and his acquaintance with the kind of Service upon which these Men are to be employed I should be very happy, should the State think proper to confer the

3d instant, I have the pleasure to find that he had returned to that place, after having relieved Fort Laurens and thrown a proper supply of provision into it. He adds that he had found some of the Indian Tribes more friendly than he expected.

A cooperation by the troops at Fort Pitt and in that quarter not being deemed either very practicable or of much use, the force, at present there, will remain. This I hope, with the assistance of the Militia, should there be [illegible] in the Middle department, I should suppose that the Army must be much distressed for the Article of Bread, should such an exportation, as I imagine the State of Massachusetts will require, be allowed. If the quantity wanted to the Eastward is ascertained, the Commissary General can [illegible] whether any or what part of it can be spared without injury to the Service.

By a letter which I have received from General McIntosh dated at Fort Pitt the

3d

the command upon him.

Upon the several hints given to me of the suspicious of Pattersons character, I have taken measures to prevent him from being mischievous should he be so inclined, and I have desired that Colo. Cox may give him a caution against making a needless parade of the employ which he is in. He has nothing to do with the Quarter Masters Department.

If I may be allowed to form any judgment from the actual Returns and Reports of the Commissaries of the quarterly of Colonel

Stat of Virginia,

I have the honor to be
with the greatest Respect
Yr. Excellency's
Most obt. Servt.
[illegible]

His Excellency
Governor Lee
Richmond Va.
Please deliver
collected
Boorman

Gov. Lee.

Head Qrs Middlebrook
May 8th 1779

Dear Sir,

I have delayed acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 1st in expectation that it would soon be followed by an official one which would enable me to take final measures on the subject of the trial.

The explanation with which you have obliged me gives me pleasure in the same proportion as the disappointment it prevented had drawn out the pain. — I wish no more to appear apprehensive of any disbelief of my equal attention to the security & welfare of the different states, and my ardent desire to cultivate mutual confidence & harmony with your state, which always make me glad to find any apprehensions I may entertain on this delicate subject ill founded. —

I am also happy to find it in your opinion that the proceedings which preceded the trial were fair & unexceptionable. — If the council think the evidence of Sam's intrigue with Mrs Do[illegible] ought to be kept from the m and time is slipping away

away last. I enclose a letter to General Arnold giving the trial at that day as you wish. I shall be pleased to have delivered to him in case it commences with the sense of the Council — otherwise it is to be returned to me. But at all events I beg you with proper decision as General Arnold has again signified his anxious desire to me that the trial may be brought on. and as the sooner it is the more convenient it will be to our military arrangements. —

Speaking of Militia I beg you to say Congress have declined exercising any compulsory power over their officers on the occasion — where any person in the Military line is summoned — as I mentioned in my letter to the Council it is my duty to order their attendance which I shall of course do. — With respect to these therefore the interposition of Congress would be unnecessary. —

With my good regard & esteem I am — Dear Sir

Your Most Obed. Servt

Geo. Washington

His Excellcy.

Joseph Reed Esq.

Recd. Copy Letter of Ben.
Arnold

1779 8 May

Forwarded
by
Col. Shelburne

Ephraim Blackburn
Lancaster 8 May 1779

Colonel Shreve
Wm. Lancaster

XXVIII

Head Quarters Middlebrook May 20th 1779

Gentlemen,

A few days since I was honored with your favour of the 8th instant.

It is my constant endeavour to cultivate the confidence of the government of the several states by an equal and uniform attention to their respective interests, so far as falls within the line of my duty and the compass of the means with which I am intrusted. With a consciousness of this, it is natural that my sensibility should be affected even by the appearance of distrust. The assurances of the Council that I have misconceived the former letters afford me pleasure proportioned to the pain which that misconception occasioned. I shall not at present trouble them with any remarks on the several difficulties in their Call, respecting the degree of protection, which each state has a right to expect. I shall only assure them, that I do full justice to the exertions of the state of Pensylvania and to express my hope, that circumstances will permit the execution of the immediate and ultimate projects of the ensuing campaign, effectual relief will be given to our frontier in general. This is a favourite object with me and nothing but necessity or more decisive prospects elsewhere will divert me from it. If the independent companies raising amount to the number the Council mention, they will answer my expectation of

of succour from the State; and will make it unnecessary to call out immediately a body of militia. I shall only request that measures may be taken to have them as speedily as possible at the place of rendezvous, Sunbury or Wyoming, where they will receive orders from General Sullivan who commands the expedition.

I am happy to find that General Arnold's trial is now put upon a satisfactory footing; and I regret, that any misapprehension has happened — I shall endeavour to have the affair conducted in its future progress with unexceptionable propriety. The period now fixed for entering upon it relieves me from much embarrasment.

I beg the Council to accept my warmest thanks for the favourable sentiments of my conduct which they do me the honor in this new instance, to express — and I entreat them to be assured of the perfect respect and esteem with which I am

Gentlemen

Your most Obed humble servant

G. Washington

P. S.

To prevent any mistake I beg leave to repeat, that if there are any persons to be summoned as witnesses that fall within my province, I shall be obliged to the Council for a communication of their names.

West point July 29.
1779

Dear Sir,

I have a pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favor of the 15th Inst., and in finding by it, that the author of the queries "Political & Military" has had no great cause to exult in the favourable reception of them by the public. —

Without a clue, I should have been at no loss to trace the malevolent writer; but I have seen a history of the transaction, and felt a pleasure mingled with pain, at the narration. — To stand well in the estimation of one's country, is a happiness that no rational creature can be insensible of — To be pursued, first under the mask of friendship, and when disguise would suit no longer, as a person calumniator with great mis-representation, and <u>selfknown</u> falsehoods, carries an alloy which

no

no temper can bear with perfect composure. —

The motives which actuate this gentleman, are better understood by himself than me — If he can produce a single instance in which I have mentioned his name (after his trial commenced) where it was in my power to avoid it; and when it was not, where I have done it with the smallest degree of acrimony or disrespect; I will consent that the world shall view my character in as disreputable a light as he wishes to place it. What cause then there is for such a profusion of venom ~~[illegible]~~ as he is emitting upon all occasions, unless by an act of public duty or bringing him to trial at his own solicitation I have disappointed him, and caused his ire — or, conceiving that in proportion as he can darken the shades of my character illuminates his own. — Whether this, say, or motives yet more dark and hidden governs him, I shall not undertake to decide,

nor

ber have I time to enquire into them at present. —

If I had ever assumed the character of a military genius and the Officer of experience — If under these false colours I had sollicited the command I was honoured with — or if, after my appointment, I had presumptuously driven on under the sole guidance of my own judgment & self-will — & misfortunes the result of obstinacy & misconduct — not of necessity — had followed, I should have made myself a proper object for the lash, not only of his, but the pen of every other writer, and a fit subject of public resentment. — But when it is well known that the command, in a manner, was forced upon me — That I accepted it with the utmost diffidence, from a consciousness that it required greater abilities, and more experience than I possessed, to conduct a great Military Machine embarrassed as I knew ours must be, by a variety of complex circumstances, and as it were but little better than a mere Chaos. — and when nothing more was proposed

Mised

mised on my part that has been most inviolably performed, it is rather grating to pass over in silence charges, which may impose the uninformed, tho others know that these charges have neither reason nor truth to support them and that a simple narrative of facts would defeat all his assertions relative thereto. They are made with an effrontery which few men do, and for the honor of human nature here only to hope.—

If this gentleman is one of my station, and conceives that I stand in his way to preferment, I can assure him, in most solemn terms, that the first wish of my soul is to return to that peaceful retirement, and domestick ease and happiness from whence I came. To this end all my labours have been directed; and for this purpose have I been more than four years a perfect slave; endeavouring under as many embarrassing circumstances as ever fell to one man, to execute the trust, and at pure motives as ever man was influenced by, to promote the cause, & service I had embarked in

For

You may form a pretty good judgement of my prospect of a brilliant campaign, and the figure I shall cut in it, when I inform you, that excepting about 400 recruits from the State of Massachusetts (a [redacted] portion of which, I am told, are children hired at about 500 dollars each for 9 months service) I have had no reinforcement to this army since last Campaign; while our numbers have been, & are diminishing daily by the expiring term of men's services, to say nothing of the natural waste by sickness — death — and desertion

Discouraging as all this is, I feel more from the state of our currency, and the little attention which hitherto appears to have been paid to our finances, than from the smallness of our army — and yet Providence having so often taken us up, when bereft of other hope) I trust we shall not fail even in this — The present temper, & disposition of the People to

facilitate

facilitate a loan — to discour
tenance speculation — and to ap
preciate the money, is a happy pro
spect of resulting good; and ought
to be cherished by every possible
means not repugnant to good
order and government. —

With you I perceive that
great events are comprized in the
next six months — and wish I
had such information as would
carry me along with you in opini
on, that which has declared in our
favor — But having no knowledge
of facts to ground such a belief, I
am apprehensive that the na
tural sloth of our Court, and the
intrigues and artifices of the Ch
will keep things in a state of repo
tation till the effect of the presen
exertion of G. B. this Campaign
is known, when, possibly, a new scen
may open. —

The public are already
possessed of the little military
occurrences of this Quarter
— I need not repeat them — some
considerable movement of the
enemy is in agitation, but of
what

what nature — where posited; I have yet been ab.: to discover. — Lord Cornwallis is arrived, and a number of Troops (it is said) are hourly expected. —

My respectful compliments attend Mr. Reed & the ladies of y.r family — with every great esteem and regard

I am D.r Sir

Y.r most Obed.t & affec.e

Obliged Serv.t

G. Washington

His Excell.y

Jos.h Reed Esq.r

General Washington
West Point
July 29th 1779.

West-point Aug. 22d - 79

Dear Sir,

Mr. Tilghman delivered me your favour of the 8th Inst. for which, & the favourable sentiments expressed of me in your publication, addressed to the Editor of the Maryland Journal, you will permit me to offer my grateful acknowledgements. —

The loss of Fort Washington sincerely — abstracted from the circumstances which attended it — was an event that gave me much pain, because it deprived the army of the services of many valuable men at a critical period, and the public of many valuable lives, by the cruelties which were inflicted upon them in their captive state. — But this concern received additional poignancy from two considerations which were but little known & one of them never will be known to the world, because I shall never attempt to palliate my own foibles by exposing the error of another; nor indeed could either of them come before the public unless there had been such a charge as must have rendered an enquiry into the causes of this miscarriage necessary. — There was a mer

— complian

compliance in General Greene with an order sent him from White-plains before I marched for the western side of Hudson River to withdraw the Artillery — Stores &c. from the Fort, allowing him honourable latitude for the exercise of his own judgment as he was upon the spot, & could decide better from appearances and circumstances than I, the propriety of a total evacuation — The other was a resolve of Congress in these emphatic words

"Friday Oct. 11th 1776."

"Resolved, that General Washington "be desired, if it be practicable, by every "art and whatever expence to obstruct "effectually the navigation of the North "River, between Fort Washington and "Mount Constitution, as well to prevent "the progress of the enemy, frigates lately "gone up, as to hinder them from receiving "any succours"

When I came to Fort Lee & found no measures taken for an evacuation in consequence of the order aforementioned. — When I found General Greene of whose judgment & candour I entertained a good opinion, decidedly opposed to it — When I found other opinions coinciding with his — When the wishes of Congress to obstruct the navigation of the

North

North River, and which were delivered in such forceable term to me, occurred — when I knew that the easy communication between the different parts of the army then separated by the River depended upon it — and lastly, when I considered that our policy led us to waste the campaign without seeking a general action on the one hand, or to suffer the enemy to overrun the Country on the other, I conceived that every impediment which stood in their way was a mean to answer these purposes, and when thrown into the scale of those opinions which were opposed to an evacuation caused that warfare in my breast and hesitation which ended in the loss of the garrison, and being repugnant to my own judgment of the advisability of attempting to hold the Post, filled me with the greater regret. —

The two great causes which led to this misfortune (and which I have before recited) as well perhaps as my reasoning upon it, which occasioned the delay, were concealed from public view; of course left the field of censure quite open for any, and every Labourer who inclined to work in it, and afforded a fine theme for the less opinionated writer, who always less regardful of facts than the point he wants to establish where he has the field wholly to himself, and where concealment of a few circumstances will answer his purpose — or where

a

a small transposition of them will give a very different complexion to the same transaction. —

Yet I have run into such a lengthy discussion of this point — at this time — I am at a loss myself to tell — I meant but to touch it, en passant, but one idea succeeded to another, till it would seem that I had been preparing my defence for a regular charge. —

My ideas of what seems to be the only mode left to keep our Battalions to their establishment or near it, you are already acquainted with, as they were conveyed at large to the Cm.ee at Valley Forge in 78. — I have seen no cause since to change my opinion on this head but a abundant reason to confirm me in it. — No man dislikes short and temporary enlistments more than I do — No man ever had greater cause to reprobate and even curse the fatal policy of the measure than I have — — for no man (with decency) ever opposed it more in the early part of this contest. I had my advice respecting this matter been pursued in the years seventy five and six, our money would have been upon a very different establishment in point of credit to what it is at this day as we should have saved Millions of pds

in

in bounty money, and the consequent evils of expiring armies, and new levies. — But those hours are passed never to be recalled — such men as compose the bulk of an army are in a different train of thinking and acting to what they were in the early stages of the war, and nothing is now left for it but an annual & systematical mode of drafting; which while we retain the stamina of an army engaged for the war will be the best, indeed I see no other substitute for voluntary enlistment — In fact it will come to this, for there are people now (old soldiers) who will hire as substitutes, and the difference will be, that instead of the public's emitting, or borrowing money to pay their bounties (which is enlarged, nearly every new enlistment) these sums will be paid by individuals — — will increase the demand for circulating cash — and, as with all other commodities in demand, raise the value of it by multiplying the means of its use

How far those governments which are rent & weakened by intestine divisions have energy enough to carry statutes of this nature into execution I do not presume to be a competent judge, but such as are well established & organized, can, we can do it — those that are not, the propriety of the measure is so necessary

and

and obvious, that I should entertain little doubt of their success in the expe-
ment. —

The plunge which you say some Gentlemen have talked of using, unless there can be a discrimination and proper saving clauses provided (and how far this is practicable I know not) would be unjust and impolitic in the extreme — Perhaps I do not understand what they mean by using the plunge — If it be to seize the money in the hands of the holders of it, and at their cost, it cannot in my opinion be justified upon any principle of common policy — common sense — or common honesty. — But how far a man for instance who has possessed himself of 20 paper dollars by means of one, or the value of one, in specie, has a just claim upon the public for more than one of the latter in redemption, and in what ratio according to the period of depreciation, I leave to those who are better acquainted with the nature of the subject, and have more leisure than I have to discuss. — To me a measure of this kind appears substantial justice to the public & each individual; but whether it is capable of equitable administration I have never thought enough of it to form any opinion

Rae

We have given the enemy another little stroke at Perles Lock — an acc.t of which is transmitted to Genl Greene by this conveyance, and will, I presume, be handed to the public — in the mean while I have the pleasure to inform you that all the prisoners and the colours of the Garrison were brought off —

I am with great esteem and respect.

Dear Sir

Your most obed.t Serv.t

Gill Hasbrouck

Hon.ble

Jos.h Reed Esq.r

President —

1117
Augt 22.
Cop. of Genl Washing-
ton

General Washington
West Point
August 22^d 1779.

Relative to the loss of
Fort Washington

West-point Oct. 22d 1779.

Dear Sir,

Three days ago I received your obliging favor of the 4th and was sorry to find you had been so much indisposed. — Before this I hope you have perfectly recovered. — Your early attention & that of the assembly to my requisitions, have my warmest thanks — and the more so, from the situation in which they found you. — I could wish however that the three months service of the Militia had been made to commence, only from the time of their joining the army. — I need not enter into a detail of reasons for this with you, as your own judgment & experience will, I am persuaded, have already anticipated them. — Your intention of leading your Militia, in case they are bringing to the field, is a circumstance honorable to yourself & flattering to me. — The example alone would have its weight, but seconded by your knowledge of discipline, ability, activity & bravery, it could not fail

of

of happy effect. — Men are influenced greatly by the conduct of their superiors — and particularly so, where they have both their confidence & affection! —

With respect to the point to which you call my recollection — I confess — when you intimated your desire of a Lieutenant's Rank to me, as it passed cursorily through my Mind — it struck me as a matter of indifference; — or at least as one against which no important objections then occurred inasmuch as it was to have no operation in the line; however I must here candidly acknowledge and state do it without hesitation, from motives of general duty — from a confidence in your friendship as well as in your zeal for the public service — and from the express authority of your letter — that having maturely weighed the subject & examined the consequences to which it might lead — I think it cannot be obtained — either with a view to the purposes ~~[illegible]~~ mentioned when you first broached the point to me — or in the present occasion for which the Militia are called out.

The discontents — the jealousies — the uneasinesses that have prevailed

failed in the Army; — the complaints which have been added on acc.t of Rank being conferred out of the common course, are all opposed to the measure. — These uneasinesses my dear Sir, tho.' not quite so prevalent among the different ranks of officers as they were are, far, very far, from being done away — and would, I fear, proceed to more than their former height upon any supposed injury, whether real or imaginary — to what they esteemed their rights. — among the General Officers and those next in rank, there would be much reason to apprehend this — as they particularly the former have already complained on the subject of Rank being given, even when motives of national policy — and indeed necessity — were urged to justify it, and reluctantly yielded to it, merely from that consideration — from hence as in your case this consideration could not be urged — I should fear, that it would be attended with greater disgust — not from any personal individual objection — but from an idea that the appointment itself materially affected their

rights

rights and those of the Officers in gen-
eral — Hence it is that I have uniform-
ly withheld my aid to all applica-
tions for brevet Commissions to fo-
reigners & others who had, or were
about to quit the service — properly
— never to interfere with the rise
of our army. —

The situation of our Officers
is delicate — and perhaps requires a
greater degree of attention, than that
of any others. — deriving no emolu-
ments from the service, but rather lo-
sing at the best — Patriotism & love
of honor are the motives to their con-
tinuing in it. — These must be the
considerations which influence the
conduct of by far the greater part
— and tho' by these motives the Officers
are placed in a much more respec-
table point of view than if they were
governed by interest, yet the ties are
not sufficiently strong to induce
their submission, or at least with-
out great difficulty, to any measures
they esteem injurious. —

For these several reasons
I cannot in policy advise to any
measures that might have a tende-
cy to obtain it for you. — Nor do I
think, after mature reflection, that

The

the rank being given by brevet which is contrary to the present views of Congress & their resolves*; founded on the discontents which a contrary practice had created - or circumscribed in its extent by any qualifications which could be thought of would alter the matter or produce the least change in the sentiments of the Officers - In any case the idea of rank & precedence would occur - & I have too much reason to believe would give great uneasiness. - The temper of these general officers is at this moment a good deal soured - Their disposition proceeding from the amazing depreciation of money on one hand and a discrimination of liberalness in the allowance of subsistance on the other needs no fresh lever to set their discontents a working - Rank then being the greatest spur the only benefit they are likely to derive for their perseverance in service & injured fortunes, they become more & more tenacious of it value - & attend the distribution of it with a watchful eye. - I have been rather prolix on this subject

24. Nov. 1778 & 20 Feb. 1779.

but thought it incumbent on me to assign the reasons which govern my opinion, because I wish you to be convinced, that I do not want inclination to comply wherever I can do it consistently with any of your wishes. — With every, great esteem & regard.

I am Dear Sir

Your most obed.t & affect.t humble Serv.t

G. Washington

His Excell.y

Gov.r Reed Esq.r

[illegible]

[illegible]
respecting Lineal Rank.

General Washington
West Point
October 22d 1779.

Morris-Town May 28th 1780

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your favor of the 23d — Nothing could be more necessary than the aid given by your State towards supplying us with Provision. — I assure you every idea you can form of our distresses will fall short of the reality. — There is such a combination of circumstances to exhaust the patience of the soldiery that it begins at length to be worn out — and we see in every line of the Army the most serious features of Mutiny and sedition — All our departments — all our operations are at a stand — and only a system very different from that which before long time prevailed but immediately adopted throughout the States our affairs must soon become desperate — beyond the possibility of recovery.

If you were on the spot my dear Sir, if you could see what difficulties surround us on every side — how unable we are to administer to the most ordinary calls of the service — you would be convinced that these expressions are not too strong, and that we have almost ceased to hope. — The country in general is in such a state of insensibility and indifference to its interest, that I dare not flatter myself with any change for the better. —

The Committee of Congress in

Treen

their late address to the several States have given a just picture of our situation. — I very much doubt its making the desired impression, and if it does not I shall consider our lethargy as incurable — The present juncture is so interesting that if it does not produce considerable exertions, it will be a proof that motives of honor public good & even self preservation have lost their influence upon our minds — This is a decisive moment — one of the most, I will go further & say the most important America has seen. — The Court of France has made a glorious effort for our deliverance, and if we disappoint its intentions by our supineness we must become contemptible in the eyes of all mankind; nor can we after that venture to confide that our allies will persist in an attempt to establish what it will appear we want civilization & ability to assist them in

Every view of our own circumstances ought to determine us to the most vigorous efforts; but there are considerations of a nether kind that should have equal weight — The combined fleets of France & Spain last year were greatly superior to those of the enemy — The enemy nevertheless sustained no material damage & at the close of the campaign have given a very important blow to our allies — This campaign the difference between the fleets seem every account I have

have been able to collect will be very inconsiderable — indeed it is far from clear that there will ever be an equality — What are we to expect will be the case if there should be a rupture? — Such probability the idea strike we on the side of the Spanish, and then what will become of America? — We ought rather to deceive ourselves. — The maritime resources of Great Britain are more substantial and real than those of France & Spain united — Her commerce is more extensive than that of the two rivals; and it is a maxim that the Nation which has the most extensive commerce will always have the most powerful marine — Were these arguments less convincing the fact speaks for itself — her progress in the course of the last year is an incontestable proof. —

It is true France in a manner created a fleet in a very short space & this may mislead us in the judgment we form of her naval abilities. But if they bear any comparison with Great Britain how comes it to pass that with all the force of Spain added she has lost so much ground in so short a time, as not to have scarcely a superiority. — We should consider what has been by France as a wicked & unnatural effort of the government which, for want of sufficient foundation cannot continue to operate proportionable effects. —

In modern wars the longest purse must chiefly determine the war — I fear that of the enemy will be found to be so — though the Government is deeply indebted & of course poor, the nation is rich and their riches afford a fund which will not be easily exhausted. — Besides their system of public credit is such that it is capable of greater exertions than that of any other nation — Speculatists have been a long time foretelling its downfall, but we see no symptoms of the catastrophe being very near. — I am persuaded it will at least last out the war, and then in the opinion of many of the best politicians it will be a matter of advantage. — If the war should terminate successfully the Crown will have acquired such influence & power that it may attempt anything — and a bankruptcy will probably be made the ladder to climb to absolute authority. — Administration may perhaps wish to drive matters to this issue — at any rate they will not be restrained by an apprehension of it from forcing the resources of the State. It will promote their present purposes on which their all is at stake and it may pave the way to triumph more effectually over the constitution. — With this disposition I have no doubt that a sufficient army will be found to prosecute the war with the greatest vigor. —

France is in a very different position. — The abilities of her present financier has done wonders — By a wise administration of the revenues aided by advantageous loans he has avoided the necessity of additional taxes. — But I am well informed — if the war continues another campaign he will be obliged to have recourse to the taxes usual in time of war which are very heavy — and which the people of France are not in condition to endure for any duration. — When this necessity commences. France may be at war on onerous terms; and England from her individual wealth will find much greater facility in supplying her exigencies. —

Spain derives great wealth from her mines, but not so great as is generally imagined — Of late years the profit to government is essentially diminished — Commerce and industry are the best means of a nation; both which are wasting to her — I am told her treasury is far from being so well filled as we have flattered ourselves — She also much divided on the propriety of the war — there is a strong party against it — The temper of the nation is too stubborn to admit of great exertions — and though the courts of the two kingdoms are closely linked together, there never has been any

of

their wars a perfect harmony of measures, nor has it been the case in this; which has already been so much detriment to the common cause. —

I mention these things to show that the circumstances of our allies as well as our own call for peace; to obtain which we must make one great effort this campaign. — The present instance of the friendship of the Court of France is attended with every circumstance that can render it important and agreeable; that can interest our gratitude or fire our emulation. — If we do our duty we may even hope to make the campaign decisive on this interest. — But we must do our duty in earnest — or disgrace & ruin will attend us — I am sincere in declaring a full persuasion that the succours will be fatal to us, if our measures are not adequate to the emergency.

To the Conclusion — Now my dear Sir I must observe to you, that much will depend on the State of Pensylvania — the last it is in her power to contribute without comparison more to our success than any other State; in the two essential articles of flour and transportation. — New York, Jersey Pensylvania and Maryland are our flour countries: — Virginia went little on this article the last crop (& her resources are called, now to the southward) — New York by Legislative coercion has already given

ab

all she could spare for the use of the Army — Her inhabitants are left with scarcely a sufficiency for their own subsistence — Jersey from being so long the place of the army's residence is equally exhausted — Maryland has made great exertions, but she can still do something more — Delaware may contribute handsomely in proportion to her extent — But Pennsylvania is our chief dependence — From every information I can obtain, she will this time furnish flour. — I speak to you in the language of frankness & as a friend. — I do not mean to make any insinuations unfavourable to the State. — I am aware of the embarrassments the government labours under from the open opposition of one party & the underhand intrigues of another. — I know that with the best disposition to promote the public service you have been obliged to measure their circumspection. — But this is a time to hazard & to take a tone of energy & decision — Ah Parties but the disaffected will acquiesce in the necessity & give their support. — The hopes & fears of the people at large may be acted upon in such a manner as to make them approve & second your views.

The matter is reduced to a point — either Pennsylvania must give us all the aid we ask of her, or we can undertake nothing — we must renounce every idea of a co-operation, and must confess to our allies that we look wholly to them for our safety. — This will be a state of humiliation & littleness against which the feelings of every good American ought to revolt. — Yours I am convinced with —

Pen

her laws. The least doubt that you will employ all your influence to ameliorate the Legislature & the people at large — The fate of these States hangs upon it — God grant we may be properly impressed with the consequences. —

I wish the Legislature could be prevailed upon to vest the executive with Plenipotentiary powers — I know it has not such every thing practicable from your abilities & zeal. — This is no time for formality or ceremony. — The crisis in every point of view is extraordinary — & extraordinary expedients are necessary — I am decided in this opinion

I am happy to hear that you have a prospect of complying with the requisitions of Congress for specific supplies — that the spirit of liberty & state rights seems to revive & the warmth of party decline. — These are good omens of our success — Perhaps this is the proper period to unite. —

I am obliged to you for the renewal of your assurances of personal regard — My sentiments for you, you are too well acquainted with to make it necessary to tell you with how much esteem & regard I am

Dear Sir

Your most obed. & affectionate Servt

Jas Madison

P.S.

I congratulate you on the increase of your family. — Mrs Washington does the same & begs her particular respects & congratulations to Mrs Reed — to which permit me to add mine.

To
His Excy Genl Reed
Philad.
Mar 28 1780

Head Q.rs Berks County
July 4th 1780.

My dear Sir,

Motives of friendship, not less than of public good, induce me with freedom to give you my sentim.ts on a matter, which interests you personally as well as the good of the common cause. I flatter myself you will receive what I say in the same spirit which dictates it, and that it will have all the influence circumstances will possibly permit.

The Legislature of Pensylvania has vested you in case of necessity, with a power of declaring Martial Law throughout the State, to enable you to take such measures as the exigency may demand; so far the Legislature has done its part. — Europe — America — the State itself will look to you for the rest. — The power vested in you will admit of all the latitude that could be desired, and may be made to mean any thing the public safety may require — If it is not exerted proportionably, you will be responsable for the consequences.

Nothing My dear Sir can be more delicate & critical than your

situation

situation — a full discretionary power lodged in your hands in conjunction with the Council — great expectation in our allies & in the People of this Country — ample means in the State for great exertions of every kind — a powerful party on one hand to take advantage of every opening to prejudice you — on the other, popular indolence and avarice averse to every measure inconsistent with present ease, & present interest — In this dilemma there is a seeming danger on whatever side you take; it remains to choose that, which has least real danger, and will best promote the public weal. — This in my opinion clearly is to exert the powers entrusted to you with a boldness & vigor suited to the emergency.

In general I esteem it a good maxim, that the best way to preserve the confidence of the People durably, is to promote their true interest — there are particular exigencies when this maxim has peculiar force. — When any great object is in view the popular mind is roused into expectation, and prepared to make sacrifices both of ease & property; if those to whom they confide the management of their affairs do not call them to make these sacrifices — and the object is not attained, or they are involved in the reproach of not having contributed as much as they

could

ought to have done towards it — they will be mortified at the disappointment — they will feel the censure — & their resentment will rise against those who with sufficient authority have omitted to do what their interest and their honor required. — Extraordinary powers not exercised as far as was necessary, have I believe scarcely ever failed to win the professor — The Legislature and the People in your case would be very glad to excuse themselves by condemning you. — You would be assailed with blame from every quarter. — and your enemies would triumph. —

The party opposed to you in Government are making great efforts. — I am told the bank established for supplying the army is principally under the auspices of that party; it will undoubtedly give them great credit with the People, and you have no effectual way to counterbalance this by employing all your influence and authority to render services proportioned to your station. — Hitherto, I confess to you frankly my dear Sir, I do not think your affairs are in the train which might be wished; and if Pennsylvania does not do its part fully, it is of so much importance in the general scale that we must fail of success,

or —

No. 11 July 1780
calls militia

or limit our views to mere defence.

I have conversed with some Gentlemen on the measure of filling your battalions — they seemed to think you could not exceed what the Legislature had done for this purpose. — I am of a very different sentiment — the establishment of Martial Law implies, in my judgment, the right of calling any part of your Citizens into Military service & in any manner which may be found expedient; and I have no doubt the draft may be executed.

I write to you with the freedom of friendship, and I hope you will esteem it the truest mark I could give you of it. — In this view, whether you think my observations well founded or not, the motive will, I am persuaded, render them agreeable. — In offering my respects to Mrs. Reed I must be permitted to accompany them with a tender of very warm acknowledgments to her & you, for the civilities & attention both of you have been pleased to shew Mr. Washington — & for the kind you have done me in calling the young Christian by my name. —

With the greatest regard
I am — Dear Sir
Yr. affect. Hble. Servt.
G. Washington

His Excelly. Jos. Reed Esqr.

Head Quarters 20th July
1780.

An idea has occurred to me my dear Madam, which if perfectly consistent with the views of the female patriots may perhaps extend the utility of their subscriptions. — It is to deposit the amount in the Bank & receive Bank Notes in lieu of it to purchase the articles intended.

This while serviceable to the Bank and advancing its operations seems to have no inconvenience to the intentions of the Ladies. — By uniting the efforts of patriotism they will reciprocally promote each other — & I should imagine the Ladies will have no objection to an union with the Gentlemen. —

But I beg Madam the suggestion I have taken the liberty to make may not have the

least

least attention paid to it, if the
sentiments of all the Gentlemen associates do not perfectly coincide
with mine I shall be with
perfect respect & esteem
Madam
Your most obed.t humble
Serv.t
C. Hagthorpe

Mr. Presid.t Recd.

Head Qrs. Orange Town
Aug. 10th 1780.

Madam,

I have the honor to thank you for your favor of the 31st ult.

It was not my intention to divert the benevolent donation of the ladies from the channel they wished it to flow in. — I gave my opinion in consequence of their request, but I shall be equally ready to subscribe to theirs — and will execute their commands in the manner most agreeable to themselves. — At the same time, I have my apprehensions (from the peculiar circumstances of our army) that a tasle of hard money may be productive of much discontent, as we have none but depreciated paper for their pay.

A few provident soldiers will, probably, avail themselves of the advantages which may result from the generous bounty of two hard dollars in specie — but it is equally probable that it will be

be the means of bringing punish-
ment on a number of others, who
propensity to drinking, overco-
ing all other considerations, too
frequently leads them into irregu-
larities, & disorders which must
be corrected. —

A Shirt would render the
condition of the Soldiery in general
much more comfortable than it
is at present, & no prospect of
public supplies in any degree
adequate to our wants, I are yet
opened to my view — The provi-
sion made, or making for the
troops of Pensylvania, and the
late importation from France, is
small in comparison of our ag-
regate call, and affords a melan-
choly prospect of continued suf-
ferings. —

I have the honor to be
Madam,
with the most perfect
respect,
Yr. most Obed. Serv.
G. Washington

Mrs. Presid. Reed.
Phil.a

Head Quarters Orange Town 20th Augt 1780

Dear Sir

I had this morning the honor of yours of the 17th from Trenton. When I ordered the Militia of Pennsylvania to assemble at their place of rendezvous, I was in hopes that our supply of provisions would have been adequate to their subsistence with the Army: But, from repeated and lately pointed representation from the Commy General, I find myself very unfortunately disappointed. I can, with very exertion, scarcely keep the Army in this Camp (entirely Continental) fed from day to day. In this situation, it will be only adding to our distress to bring forward the Men under your Excellency's command — to halt them any where between this and Delaware would be in fact the same thing, and altho' ordering them back to their Counties may be attended with some inconveniencies and delays hereafter, yet necessity constrains me to do it in some measure. I would wish you immediately to send orders to those of the remoter Counties, who have not yet joined you, to return for the present, but to hold themselves in readiness to move again upon the shortest notice. Should you be of opinion that those of Philad.a and the neighbouring Counties, who are already embodied and under your command, could take a position

in

in the County of Bucks, where they could be subsisted without interfering with the supplies coming on for the Army, I should prefer it to disbanding them; for to be candid, I fear so much time will be lost in getting them out again after the second division of the French Troops and Ships (hourly expected) arrive, that the Season for action will have glided away, and that we shall on that account be unable to prosecute the intended operation. But should your Excellency be of opinion that they may return home, and be collected again in the course of a few days when wanted – I shall have no objection. The Delaware Militia being but a handful of Men, and those armed and accoutered by the public, I have thought it better to order them forward than, by countermanding them, run the risque of losing the public Stores which they have drawn. I am infinitely obliged to you for providing you, people with Camp Equipage, as it would not have been in my power to have furnished them with a sufficient quantity, if with any at all.

It is a most mortifying reflection, that we should not, at this advanced period of the Campaign have Magazines of provision for even one half the Men necessary for our intended operations. I can only hope that this is owing to the new Crop not having yet come into use, and that by the time of the

the arrival of the 2d division, upon which the com:
:mencement of our operations will depend, we shall
be in a situation to draw a head of Men together.
I have every assurance from the Secretary and
Sea Commanders that the second Division may,
without some very unexpected accident, be daily
expected. Should we, upon the arrival of this rein:
forcement, be found, after all our promises of a co:
:operating force, deficient in Men, provision and
every other essential. Your Excellency can easily
conceive what will be the opinion of our Allies, and
of all the World, and what will be the consequences
in the deranged, distracted State of our Affairs. And
that we shall be found in this situation, unless the
most vigorous exertions are made by the several
States to send in those supplies which are demanded
of them, I am as well convinced as I am of any one
thing in nature.

Let me conjure you then my dear Sir to
make the proper use of every moment of the time
which we have, [illegible]
held out to us, and if we do not embrace the oppor:
:tunity which now presents itself, and which is certainly
within our reach, if we will make use of the means
in our power, can we expect ever to have the

Offer

offer repeated.

I have the honor to be
with great Respect and Esteem
Yr. Excellency's
most obt. and hble. Serv.
E. Washington

P.S. I duly rec. your
Excellency's favs. of the
3d. and 7th

38
Augusta
Genl. Washington
Letter

His Excellency Gov. Reed.

Head Q.rs Passaic Falls Sept 18 1780

Dear Sir,

By your favor of the third from Bethlehem, I perceive my letter of the first had not got to your hands; but have the pleasure to find that the business you were upon anticipated the purposes of it, and was in a fair way to answer the end. —

Arnold's conduct is so villainously perfidious, that there are no terms that can describe the baseness of his heart — That overruling Providence which has so often — and so remarkably interposed in our favor — never manifested itself more conspicuously than in the timely discovery of his horrid intention to surrender the Post & Garrison of West point into the hands of the Enemy. — I confine my remark to this single act of perfidy, for I am far from thinking he intended to hazard a defeat of this important object by combining another with it, altho' there were circumstances which led to a contrary belief. — The confidence & folly which has marked the subsequent conduct of this man, are of a piece with his villainy; and all three are perfect in their kind. —

The interest you take in my supposed escape, and the manner in which you speak of it, claim my thanks as much as if he really had intended to involve my fate with that of the Garrison. and consider

sider it as a fresh instance of your affe-
tionate regard for me. —

As I do not recollect ever to have ha
any very particular conversation with
General Schuyler respecting Arnold, I
should be glad to obtain a copy of the lett
in which you say my "opinion and con-
"fidence in him (Arnold) is conveyed in
"terms of affection and approbation". —
Sometime before, or after Arnold's return
from Connecticut (the conversation mad
so little impression on me that I know no
which) General Schuyler informed me
he had received a letter from Arnold int
mating his intention of joining the Arm
& rendering such services as his Leg would
permit. — adding, that he was incapab
of active service — but could discharge
the duties of a stationary command wit
out much inconvenience, or uneasine
to his Leg — I answered, that as we had
a prospect of an active & vigorous cam
paign I should be glad of General Arnold
aid & assistance, but saw little prospect of
his obtaining such a command as appea
ed to be the object of his wishes, becaus
it was my intention to draw my whol
force into the field when we were in cir
cumstances to commence our operations
against New-York, leaving even West
point to the care of Invalids, and a Mar
Garrison of Militia; but if, after this frew
ous declaration, the command of that

Post

Post — for the reasons he assigned — would be more convenient and agreeable to him than a command in the field, I should readily endulge him — having had it hinted to me by a very respectable character, a member of Congress (Genl. Schuyler) that a measure of this kind would not be unacceptable to the State most immediately interested in the welfare, & safety of the Post. —

This, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, is every syllable that ever passed between General Schuyler and me respecting Arnold, or any of his concerns — the manner, & the matter, appeared perfectly uninteresting to both of us at the time. He seemed to have no other view in communicating the thing than because he was requested to do it. and my answer, dictated by circumstances, you already have — but here it was communicated the letter with Him. —

That this Genl. (Genl. Schuyler) possesses a share of my regard & confidence I shall readily acknowledge — a pretty long acquaintance with him — an opinion of his abilities — his intimate knowledge of our circumstances — his zeal, as far as I have had opportunities of forming a judgment of it — added to personal civilities — and proofs of a warm friendship, which I never had a doubt of, would leave me without excuse were I to withhold these from him. —

What

What ascendency he may have over the Army is more than I can tell — but I should not be surprised if he stand in a favourable point of view with respect to their esteem. — The means he took to acquire a true knowledge of their distresses, while he was with it — the representations he made to procure relief — and his evident endeavours to promote the objects for which he was appointed — seems to have made this a natural consequence. —

That part of your Letter which respects the exchange of Prisoners will be made the subject of a particular letter — I shall accompany this. —

With great esteem & regard.
I am — Dear Sir
Your most obed. & aff.
Yours
G. Washington

Gen. Washington
Q.M. 18th
Head Quarters Tappan Feb. 22

His Excellcy.
Jos. Reed Esq.

Feb. - 18 - 1780

Head Q.rs 20th Nov.r 1780

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 15th is just come to hand — I cannot suffer myself to delay a moment in pronouncing if Arnold by the words (in his letter to his wife) "I am treated with the greatest "politeness by General Washington "and the Officers of the army who "bitterly execrate Mr. Head and the "Council for their villainous attempt "to injure me". meant to comprehend me in the latter part of the expression that he asserted an absolute falsehood

It was at no time my inclination, much less my interest to become a party in his cause — and I certainly could not be so

but

lost to my own character as to become a partizan at the moment I was called upon Officially to bring him to trial

I am nevertheless mistaken if he has not extended the former part of the paragraph a little too far. — True it is he selfinvited some civilities, I never meant to shew him (or any Officer in arrest) — And he received rebuke before I could convince him of the impropriety of his entering upon a justification of his conduct in my presence — and for bestowing such illiberal abuse as he seemed disposed to do upon those whom he denominated his persecutors

Although you have done me the justice to disbelieve — or holds a position to his wife a regard to my own feelings claim a declaration of the false hood

of

Rich. from Dear Sir
Your most obed.t & affect.e
Athlone
J. Washington

His Excell.y
Geo. Reed Esq.r

Geo: Washington
Nov. 20th 1780

Received of William Fitzhugh
Esqr. Twenty £ Virginia
1780.

Mount Vernon 15th. Novr 1781

Dear Sir

I have the honor to thank you most sincerely for your Congratulations conveyed in your Favor of the 27th ulto.

That our Success against the Enemy in the State of Virginia, has been so happily effected, & with so little Loss — and that it promises such favorable Consequences, to honor & improve, the Welfare & Independence of the United States — is a Matter of very pleasing Reflection.

I beg you to be assured that I am

with perfect Regard & Esteem

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient and

most humble Servant

G. Washington

Hon. Jos. Reed Esq.

Gen Washington

15 Nov. 1781

Mount Vernon

Copy Lt. Colo. Scott 15th Sept. 1782.

Dear Sir,

The appeal contained in your letter of the 11th instant, is equally unexpected & surprising. — But, leaving the particular charges which are alledged against you, it is impossible for me to make a specific reply. — I can therefore only say in general terms, that the Employments you sustained in the year 1776 — and in that period of the year, when we experienced our greatest distress, are a proof that you was not suspected by me of infidelity or want of Integrity — for had the least suspicion of the kind reached my mind — either from observation or report, I should most assuredly have marked you out as a fit object of resentment. —

While

While on our retreat thro' Jersey, I remember you were sent from Newark, to the Assembly of New Jersey then sitting, to rouse and animate them to spirited measures for our support — and at the same time General Mifflin was sent to Pensylvania for the same purpose. — This Employ was certainly a mark of my confidence in you at that time.

Your conduct, so far as it came to my immediate notice during the short period we lay on the West back of the Delaware, appeared solicitous for the public good. — and your conduct at Princeton evidenced a spirit & Zeal, which to me appeared laudable & becoming a man well affected to the cause we have engaged in.

It is rather a disagreeable circumstance, to have private and confidential letters, hastily written as all mine of that days are, upon a supposition that they would remain between the Parties only, produced as Evidence in a matter of public

discussion

disposition — but conscious that my public & private sentiments, are at all times alike; I shall not withhold those letters, should you think them absolutely necessary to your justification. —

If I have in my possession any such letters as you particularly allude to, it is not at present with me — being in the field, perfectly light, I have divested myself of all papers — public & private — but such, of late date, as I thought I might have occasion, in my present situation, to refer to — The others remain a considerable distance from me. —

I am Dear Sir
Your most Obed.t
& most Hble Serv.t
G. Washington

Letter &c
Joseph Reed Esq.r

13

Gen. Washington to Wm. Heath

Hopkinton's Point. Sept. 15. 1788.

Published in the Pamphlet.

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